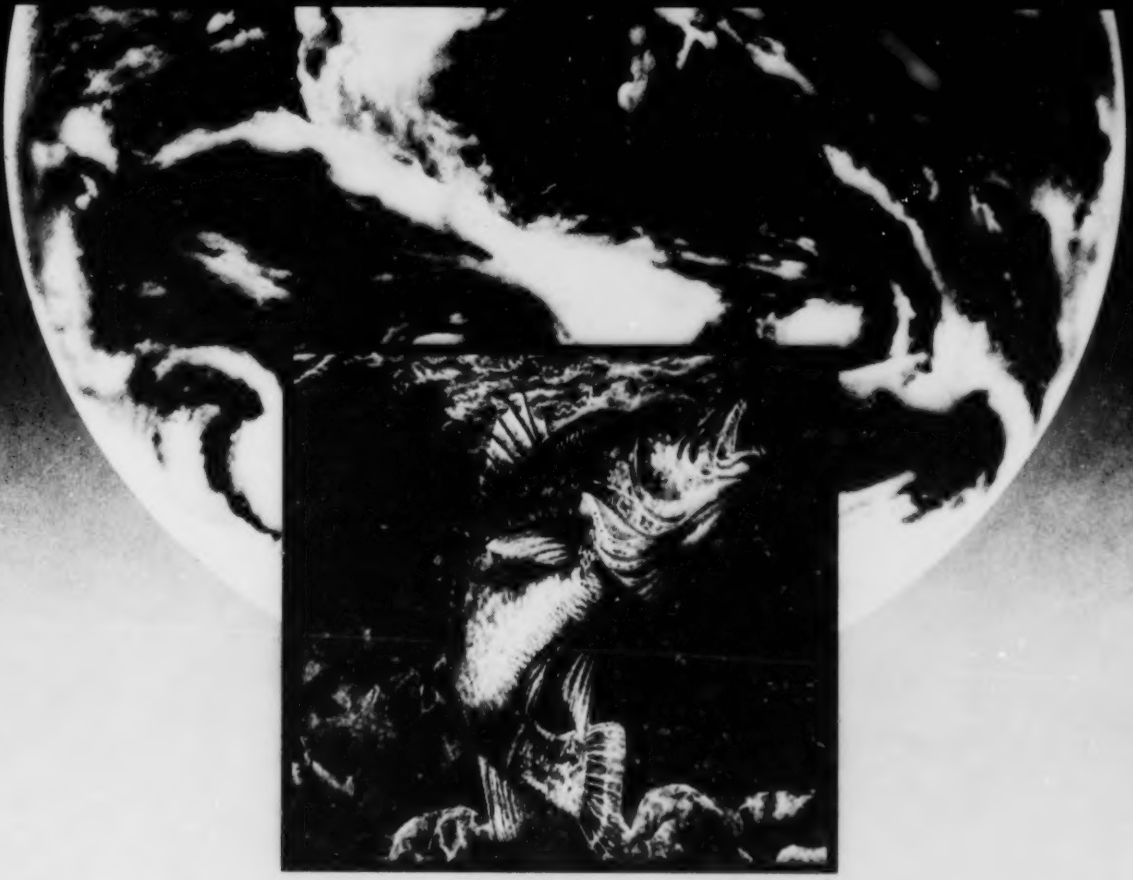
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMEN



"What You Told Us..."

Fish Strategy

DEVELOPMENT IN HARMONY WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT

Manitoba Round Table
for Sustainable Development

To all Manitobans

The Sustainable Development Act, which came into force on July 1, 1998, requires the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development under section 7(4):

1. to *"prepare, in consultation with the Interdepartmental Planning Board and departments, and publish draft policies, recommendations and proposed action plans in relation to...component strategies..."* as per our "Workbook on Fish";
2. to *"consult the public on those draft policies, recommendations..."*;
3. to *"...publish the results of the public consultations..."*; and
4. to *"...provide any advice to government..."* on policies and recommendations the Round Table deems appropriate.

This "What You Told Us" report will complete our third responsibility under the Act, that is "to publish the results of public consultations."

On behalf of the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development and in particular the members of the Fish Panel, I would like to thank all those who have devoted their time and energy in the consideration of policies needed to ensure the sustainability of Manitoba's fish resources.

Your advice, suggestions and comments, whether in returned questionnaires, letters, submissions, presentations or workshop discussions, have been insightful. We will consider all of them when we prepare our final policy recommendations.

We are grateful for the assistance provided us by the staff of various departments of the provincial government, not only in the development of the fish workbook but also in conducting workshops across the province.

Again thank you for your interest, participation, ideas and comments.

Sincerely

David R.M. Hatch

David Hatch, Chair Fish Panel
Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

What You Told Us
1. Introduction 2

The Public Participation Process 2
1. Introduction 2
2. Our Consultation Plan 3
3. Pre-workshop Communications 3
4. Workshop Communications 4

Highlights 7
1. Public Participation 7
2. Overview of Questionnaire Results 8

Public Comments 10
1. Policy Area 1: Environmental Enhancement and Protection 11
2. Policy Area 2: Allocation and Supply 33
3. Policy Area 3: Development and Use 59
4. Policy Area 4: Planning and Integrated Management 82
5. Policy Area 5: Public Awareness and Education . . 99
6. Policy Area 6: Human and Property Health and Safety 107
7. Questionnaire Additional Comments and Suggestions 113
8. Comments on the Public Participation Process . . 127
9. Public Presentations and Submissions Received . .130
    - Manitoba Wildlife Federation 130
    - Treaty and Aboriginal Rights Research Centre of Manitoba 131
    - Mr. Cliff Leibert 131
    - Intermountain Sport Fishing Enhancement Inc. 131
    - Alan Thomson 132
    - Lake Manitoba Fish Enhancement Committee 133
    - Mr. John Bekers 136
    - Winnipeg Game and Fish Association 137
    - Ms. Betty Abramoff 137
    - Fisheries and Oceans, Freshwater Institute . . 138
    - The Northern Aboriginal Community Fishing Industry 139
    - The Manitoba Cattle Producers Association . . 144
    - Manitoba Naturalists Society 144
    - Manitoba Chapter of Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society 148

What You Told Us

1. Introduction:

In March 1994, the Manitoba Government released its *Sustainable Development Strategy for Manitoba.* Based upon the recommendations of the Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy, this report established provincial sustainable development goals and outlined a framework for future policy development. The report also identified a series of specific economic, environmental, resource, human health and social policy component strategies to be prepared.

The Land and Water Component is one such strategy under which the fish strategy falls.

The Sustainable Development Act, which received Royal Assent in June 1997 and came into force on July 1, 1998, formally established the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development, formerly the Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy under section 4(1). Under section 7(4) of the Act, the Round Table is required:

1. to *"prepare, in consultation with the Interdepartmental Planning Board and departments, and publish draft policies, recommendations and proposed action plans in relation to...component strategies..." as* per our "Workbook on Fish";
2. to *"consult the public on those draft policies, recommendations..."*;
3. to *"...publish the results of the public consultations..."*; and
4. to *"...provide any advice to government..."* on policies and recommendations the Round Table deems appropriate.

Our Round Table has completed points one and two above. This report will complete our third responsibility under the Act, that is *"to publish the results of public consultations."*

Once we have completed point 4, the Manitoba Government will then consider our recommendations and:

- adopt provincial sustainable development fish policies, it deems appropriate; and
- take steps to implement those policies.

The Public Participation Process

1. Introduction

The Sustainable Development Act requires that the Round Table consult the public on draft fish policies. To begin our public consultation process, a consultant was engaged to gain public input on issues related to provincial fish policies and management. The purpose was to collect information to help in the preparation of the "Workbook on Fish" by determining and evaluating the issues that should be addressed in a fish strategy.

Focus group discussions with stakeholders, business persons, Aboriginal community members and the general public were conducted in Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson, in May 1998.

The results of those discussions were used in the development of our workbook.

2. Our Consultation Plan

Following focus group consultations, the Round Table determined that an overall consultation plan was required. The goal of this plan was to provide Manitobans with opportunities to participate meaningfully in the development of Manitoba's fish policy objectives, policies and recommended government actions.

A Manitoba Round Table Fish Strategy Panel was established to lead the consultations. Chaired by David Hatch, the panel included Manitoba Round Table members Jenny Hillard, George Campbell, Mary Richard, Professor Thomas Henley and Christine Common-Singh; as well as Manitoba Youth Round Table member Lani Innes.

We agreed the fish consultation process would generally follow previous sustainable development strategy consultations and would include:

- a workbook with mail in questionnaires,
- open houses and public workshops,
- formal presentations, and
- submissions.

Our plan included:

- pre-workshop communications, and
- workshop, open house and public presentation communications.

3. Pre-workshop Communications

Pre-workshop communication activities included the preparation of a workbook and questionnaire, news releases, advertisements, radio and television spots, media interviews, posters, an Internet Web site, community contacts and translation services.

Workbook / Questionnaire: "The Workbook on Fish" and "Fish Questionnaire" were released March 18, 1999 and immediately mailed to stakeholders throughout the province. Except in a few cases, the workbook was made available in communities where a workshop was scheduled at least one month before the workshop. The questionnaire was developed as a convenient way for participants to provide written responses and comments. The questionnaire came with a self-addressed stamped return envelope.

News Releases: The Manitoba Round Table issued a news release to all media in the province. The news release identified the locations and dates for the workshops and encouraged local participation. One week prior to the workshops, the Round Table forwarded a second news release to the local media.

Advertisements: Ads were placed in most local and community newspapers and included information on the workbook, the Internet Web site and list of communities scheduled for workshops and times available for making presentations to the Panel. A second advertisement, reminding individuals of the workbook and workshop meeting locations and dates, was placed in the host community and surrounding community newspapers. Both the *Dakota Ojibway Drum* and *The Cree Nation* were used to announce the workshops to the First Nations of northern and southern Manitoba.

Mr. Ed Wood of EM Management Group produced an article titled the "Strategy for Fish and Wildlife Public Workshops," which was published in the North Central Projects newsletter *CSA Report* final issue. This bilingual newsletter, in English, Oji-Cree and Cree, was distributed to residents in northeastern Manitoba.

Fish Workshop Locations and Dates 1999	Publication	Issue Date 1999
All Fish Workshop Locations	Winnipeg Free Press Winnipeg Sun La Liberte (French)	March 20 March 21 March 26
The Pas - April 6	The Pas Opasquia Times	March 24
Snow Lake - April 7	Snow Lake News	March 25
Thompson - April 12 Wabowden - April 13 Norway House - April 19 Grand Rapids - April 28	Thompson Citizen Thompson Nickel Belt News	April 1 March 29
Swan River - April 26	Swan River Star & Times	April 13
Brandon - May 5	Brandon Sun	April 24
Dauphin - May 6	Dauphin Herald	April 20
Gimli - May 19 Pine Dock - May 20	Interlake Spectator	May 3
South Indian Lake - May 26	Thompson Nickel Belt News The Drum	May 17 May 12
All Locations April 12 - June 10	Weetamah The Drum	April 1 April 8
Arborg - April 19 Ashern April 20 and April 27	Interlake Spectator	April 5
Flin Flon - April 26 / The Pas - April 27 / Flin Flon - May 3	Flin Flon Reminder Flin Flon Northern Visions Gazette The Pas Opasquia Times	April 16 April 16 April 14
Portage La Prairie - May 10 / May 18	Portage Daily Graphic Portage Herald Leader Press	May 1 May 4
Winnipeg - May 11 / 12 & May 19, May 26 / Selkirk May 13	Winnipeg Free Press Winnipeg Sun Canadian Publishers (4 papers) Selkirk Jounal	May 1 May 2 April 28 April 26
Pine Falls May 17 & 25 Lac Du Bonnet - May 18	Pine Falls Voice Lac Du Bonnet Leader	May 6 May 3

Fish Workshop Locations and Dates 1999	Station	Schedule	Language	# of anns.
The Pas - April 6 Snow Lake - April 7	Native Communications Inc. CFAR / CJAR - Flin Flon / The Pas	April 1, 3 & 5 April 1, 3 & 5 3x / day	English / Cree English only	9 9
Thompson - April 12 Wabowden - April 13	Native Communications Inc. CHTM Thompson	April 5 - 9 April 8 - 10 3x / day	English / Cree English only	15 9
Norway House - April 19	Native Communications Inc.	April 12 - 16 3x / day	English / Cree	15
Swan River -April 26 Ashern - April 27 / Grand Rapids - April 28	Native Communications Inc.	April 19-23 3x / day	English / Cree	15
Flin Flon - May 3 Flin Flon - May 3 / Brandon - May 5 / Dauphin - May 6	CFAR / CJAR - Flin Flon /The Pas Native Communications Inc.	April 29 - May 1 April 26 - 30 3x / day	English only English / Cree / Ojibway	9 15
Portage La Prairie - May 10 / Winnipeg May 11- 12 / Selkirk - May 13	Native Communications Inc.	May 3 - 7 3x / day	English / Ojibway	15
Pine Falls - May 17 Lac Du Bonnet - May 18 Gimli - May 19 Pine Dock - May 20	Native Communications Inc.	May 10 - 14 3x / day	English / Ojibway	15
South Indian Lake - May 26	Native Communications Inc.	May 19 - 21	English / Cree	9
Russell - June 3	CKDM - Dauphin	May 31 - June 2 2x / day	English	6
Garden Hill - June 9	Native Communications Inc.	May 31 - June 4	English / Cree	15

Radio: Free public service announcement airtime was used whenever possible. In native and northern communities, citizen band radio (e.g., Native Communications Inc.) promoted the workshops. Announcements (up to three per day) were run for up to five days prior to community workshops. A number of the announcements were delivered in the appropriate native language.

Television: In Aboriginal communities, community television stations were asked to promote the workshops through public service announcements as well as airing a video on the fish strategy. The video, produced in English and Oji-Cree, was available for use in the workshops and also available to all media.

Media Interviews: The Fish Panel Chair was the spokesperson for the Manitoba Round Table. Arrangements were made with media outlets in various communities for interviews, talk shows, and other activities to promote the workshops and encourage local participation. For example, Jack Dubois, Manitoba Round Table Wildlife Panel Chair, participated in Native Communication Inc.'s call-in program "The Circle Tree" to promote the public participation process for both the Fish and Wildlife strategy workshops.

Posters: Posters were produced and distributed in the various communities, as a reminder of workshop dates. Generally, community posters were distributed to the designated community contact or Natural Resource's office two weeks prior to the workshops. The posters were also translated into Oji-Cree and Cree, and sent to appropriate communities.

Internet: Information about the workbook was featured on the Sustainable Development Coordination Unit's Web site. The Web site included the workbook, questionnaire, workshop dates and locations. The Web site was also linked to the Fisheries and Wildlife Branches' Web site. Web site addresses were included in the workshop advertisements. The questionnaire was available for downloading from the site.

Community Contacts: Employees from various provincial government departments helped to promote the strategy and encourage participation whenever possible. Key individuals in some communities were also approached to act as Manitoba Round Table liaisons. They undertook to personally invite or telephone individuals to attend the meeting in the community. In Aboriginal communities, band chiefs were contacted to explain the workshop and consultation process, and to request their permission to communicate with the band. Chiefs from bands surrounding the workshop location were also contacted.

An individual from the band, or a band designate, often served as a community liaison. These individuals provided advice on meeting format, protocols, poster distribution and suggested or made arrangements such as identifying individuals to open and close meetings with a prayer, translation services and catering.

Translation Services: French language translation was available at all workshops held in Winnipeg. In other locations, translation services were provided, if requested at least two weeks prior to the workshop date. In Aboriginal communities, a translator from the community was available.

4. Workshop Communications

Workshop communication activities included open house sessions; opportunities to make presentations to the Panel prior to scheduled workshops; display panels; and an introductory slide - video presentation.

Open Houses: Before each workshop (except in Winnipeg), the Manitoba Round Table hosted an open house where individuals could meet panel members, view workshop materials, pick up workbooks and discuss fish policies and issues with panel members and support staff.

Public Presentations: During the open house sessions, the Panel was available to hear and accept public presentations and submissions on the proposed fish policies. The one exception was in Winnipeg, where a full day was set aside to hear public presentations.

Display Panels: Displays were developed for use at all open house sessions and workshops. These displays highlighted fisheries information and sustainability as well as the draft fish policies.

Slide - Video Presentation: A slide presentation and video were developed to provide background information on our fish strategy and the draft policies. This presentation was used as an introduction to the workshop sessions.

Highlights

Public Participation

With the release and widespread distribution of the "Workbook on Fish," the Manitoba Round Table embarked on an ambitious public participation process. The hearings provided an opportunity for many individuals, organizations, communities, and local government and business groups to make their views known. The Aboriginal community, environmental, agricultural, recreational, angling, commercial fishing and other sectors clearly expressed their concerns and interests.

During April, May and June 1999, the Manitoba Round Table's fish panel held 21 workshops / presentation sessions across Manitoba. Additionally, a meeting was held with Natural Resource Co-management Boards in Thompson, Manitoba.

During this consultation period, some 367 participants attended the workshops. The panel heard or received 14 formal presentations / submissions and 170 people completed questionnaires.

From March 1999 to the end of January 2000, there were 137 hits on the fish workbook Web site.

A breakdown of participation by workshop location was as follows.

Date 1999	Panel Members in Attendance	Workshop Location	Number of Participants
April 6	D.Hatch, J.Hillard, G.Campbell, M.Richard	The Pas	23
April 7	D. Hatch, J.Hillard, G.Campbell, M.Richard	Snow Lake	11
April 12	D. Hatch, J.Hillard, G.Campbell, M.Richard	Thompson	9
April 13	D. Hatch, J.Hillard, G.Campbell, M.Richard	Wabowden	9
April 14	Thompson - meeting with resource co-management boards		
April 19	D. Hatch, J.Hillard, G.Campbell, M.Richard, T.Henley	Norway House	16
April 26	D. Hatch, G.Campbell	Swan River	26
April 27	D. Hatch, G.Campbell	Ashern	38
April 28	D.Hatch, T. Henley	Grand Rapids	17
May 3	D.Hatch, C.Common-Singh	Flin Flon	7
May 5	D.Hatch, C.Common-Singh, L.Innes	Brandon	3
May 6	D.Hatch, C.Common-Singh, L.Innes	Dauphin	28
May 10	D.Hatch, L.Innes	Portage la Prairie	18
May 11	D.Hatch, L.Innes	Winnipeg	8
May 12	D.Hatch, G.Campbell, L.Innes	Winnipeg Presentations	11
May 13	D.Hatch, G.Campbell	Selkirk	14
May 17	D.Hatch, G.Campbell	Pine Falls	2
May 18	D.Hatch, G.Campbell	Lac du Bonnet	6
May 19	D.Hatch, G.Campbell	Gimli	29
May 20	D.Hatch	Pine Dock	19
May 26	D.Hatch, M.Richard, L.Innes	South Indian Lake	44
June 3	D.Hatch	Russell	10
June 9	D.Hatch, G.Campbell, T.Henley, C.Common-Singh	Garden Hill	19
Total			367

Overview of Questionnaire Results

The following is the overall results from the 170 returned questionnaires. Detailed public comments are presented in the next section of this report.

Objectives and Policies	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy Area 1 - Objective 1	98%	2%	0%
Policy Area 1 - Objective 2	96%	2%	2%
Policy 1.1	97%	1%	2%
Policy 1.2	97%	2%	1%
Policy 1.3	97%	3%	0%
Policy 1.4	98%	2%	0%
Policy 1.5	93%	6%	1%
Policy 1.6	90%	9%	2%
Policy 1.7	95%	5%	0%
Policy Area 2 - Objective 1	92%	6%	2%
Policy 2.1	96%	2%	2%
Policy 2.2	57%	19%	23%
Policy 2.3	62%	11%	28%
Policy 2.4	90%	6%	4%
Policy 2.5	70%	18%	12%
Policy 2.6	84%	8%	8%
Policy 2.7	71%	23%	6%
Policy 2.8	82%	8%	10%
Policy 2.9	96%	3%	2%
Policy Area 3 - Objective 1	89%	8%	3%
Policy Area 3 - Objective 2	81%	14%	5%
Policy 3.1	80%	14%	6%
Policy 3.2	80%	17%	4%
Policy 3.3	77%	19%	5%
Policy 3.4	83%	15%	2%
Policy 3.5	81%	15%	5%
Policy 3.6	72%	16%	11%
Policy 3.7	74%	18%	8%
Policy 3.8	86%	9%	6%
Policy 3.9	80%	16%	4%
Policy 3.10	87%	12%	2%

Objectives and Policies	Strongly Agree and Agree	Neutral	Disagree and Strongly Disagree
Policy Area 4 - Objective 1	86%	13%	2%
Policy Area 4 - Objective 2	88%	11%	1%
Policy Area 4 - Objective 3	89%	9%	2%
Policy Area 4 - Objective 4	83%	10%	7%
Policy Area 4 - Objective 5	84%	14%	3%
Policy 4.1	88%	12%	1%
Policy 4.2	86%	10%	3%
Policy 4.3	85%	13%	2%
Policy 4.4	83%	8%	9%
Policy 4.5	93%	6%	2%
Policy 4.6	74%	21%	4%
Policy 4.7	77%	16%	7%
Policy Area 5 - Objective 1	87%	12%	1%
Policy 5.1	86%	12%	2%
Policy 5.2	87%	11%	2%\
Policy 5.3	77%	15%	8%
Policy Area 6 - Objective 1	76%	18%	6%
Policy 6.1	95%	4%	1%
Policy 6.2	96%	2%	1%
Policy 6.3	94%	3%	2%

Public Comments

The comments provided here are feedback from returned questionnaires and workshop sessions.

Questionnaire comments

Comments from the completed uestionnaires are generally unedited, except for the deletion of names of individual persons and any inappropriate language.

The comments have been organized:

- by specific objective and policy,
- under the heading of "Questionnaire Additional Comments and Suggestions"(Note: Where an additional comment is also related to specific policy, it is repeated under that policy); and
- under the heading of "Comments on the Public Participation Process."

Workshop Comments

Comments obtained from the workshops have been divided into two categories:

- by "Group Workshop Comments", which are the comments recorded by participants, and
- by "Staff Workshop Notes," which are staff notes of participant discussions.

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Policy Area 1.
Environmental Enhancement and Protection

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 1

To conserve, manage, enhance, restore and develop fish habitat including the protection of water quality and quantity so as to maintain biological diversity, protect the ability of the environment to sustain fish resources and provide environmental, educational, economic, and social benefits for existing and future generations.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 1

- One detriment to this, in my opinion, has been the issuing of licences to grow wild rice without any proper analysis of harmful side-effects on fish habitats and spawning areas.
- Your intentions sound admirable, but the 3 inch fishery on Lake Manitoba leaves me rather cynical about anything you say.
- It is important that we keep our water quality and quantity to sustain our fishing resources, to provide a healthy spawn to mature and grow as they are being harvested.
- Fulfil the above and direct Manitoba Hydro and Saskatchewan Power to clean up their environmental damages on the Churchill River system.
- This will put the ability to the next generation to have more input as to what the future holds for the fishing resources, also to have the opportunity to expand their power to explore future economic opportunities.
- Lake Winnipeg should be closed for at least three years, for the fish to spawn properly. I've seen fish stocks are going down rapidly.
- Wow - Now that we've accomplished this let's quit. It's all done!!
- Control of the cormorant must be introduced. I do both commercial and recreational fishing and have seen our lakes covered with the black devils cleaning out our fish.
- Efforts in the Little Saskatchewan River drainage basin are a step in meeting this objective locally.
- Enhance fish population in Manitoba's lakes by setting up federal fish hatcheries to supply fingerlings yearly in the lakes.
- I strongly agree with this objective on the basis that preservation and protection of the present status is not emphasized.
- I think the objective should specify "to sustain natural or native fish resources".
- To make some effort to keep roads passable to allow fishing in lakes not close to highway etc., Instead of the present practice.
- Less clear cutting of forest areas to help maintain adequate watersheds.
- The water quality and fish resources of Lake Manitoba are completely ignored every time the Portage Diversion is opened to dump polluted water into a clean lake.
- Monitoring system and information publicized. Identify problem areas.
- Try to stabilize levels in reservoirs , i.e., Lake of the Prairies so vegetation can grow and reduce soil erosion and siltation.
- Too many issues in one sentence.
- All sectors of users should work together to make sure this happens.
- In order for people and fish to survive strongly agree that water quality must be controlled throughout the world. Try tasting water in the Province of Saskatchewan!

Policy Area 1. Environmental Enhancement and Protection

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 1:

To conserve, manage, enhance, restore and develop fish habitat including the protection of water quality and quantity so as to maintain biological diversity, protect the ability of the environment to sustain fish resources and provide environmental, educational, economic, and social benefits for existing and future generations.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 1

Agreed - 98% Neutral - 2% Disagree - 0%

- One detriment to this, in my opinion, has been the issuing of licences to grow wild rice without any proper analysis of harmful side-effects on fish habitats and spawning areas.
- Your intentions sound admirable, but the 3 inch fishery on Lake Manitoba leaves me rather cynical about anything you say.
- It is important that we keep our water quality and quantity to sustain our fishing resources, to provide a healthy spawn to mature and grow as they are being harvested.
- Fulfil the above and direct Manitoba Hydro and Saskatchewan Power to clean up their environmental damages on the Churchill River system.
- This will put the ability to the next generation to have more input as to what the future holds for the fishing resources, also to have the opportunity to expand their power to explore future economic opportunities.
- Lake Winnipeg should be closed for at least three years, for the fish to spawn properly. I've seen fish stocks are going down rapidly.
- Wow - Now that we've accomplished this let's quit. It's all done!!
- Control of the cormorant must be introduced. I do both commercial and recreational fishing and have seen our lakes covered with the black devils cleaning out our fish.
- Efforts in the Little Saskatchewan River drainage basin are a step in meeting this objective locally.
- Enhance fish population in Manitoba's lakes by setting up federal fish hatcheries to supply fingerlings yearly in the lakes.
- I strongly agree with this objective on the basis that preservation and protection of the present status is not emphasized.
- I think the objective should specify "to sustain natural or native fish resources".
- To make some effort to keep roads passable to allow fishing in lakes not close to highway etc., Instead of the present practice.
- Less clear cutting of forest areas to help maintain adequate watersheds.
- The water quality and fish resources of Lake Manitoba are completely ignored every time the Portage Diversion is opened to dump polluted water into a clean lake.
- Monitoring system and information publicized. Identify problem areas.
- Try to stabilize levels in reservoirs , i.e., Lake of the Prairies so vegetation can grow and reduce soil erosion and siltation.
- Too many issues in one sentence.
- All sectors of users should work together to make sure this happens.
- In order for people and fish to survive strongly agree that water quality must be controlled throughout the world. Try tasting water in the Province of Saskatchewan!

- When! Did you plan on winning the lottery to finance all of the above or raise taxes!
- The raising and lowering of the water levels in the rivers in the Whiteshell Park by Water Resources affects the water quality.
- Any one not agreeing would be from another world.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Flin Flon, Gimli, Swan River, and The Pas.

- Protection / management of natural resources is the most important point.
- Implementation is an issue - need incentive program.
- Garbage is a huge issue.
- Important for tourism especially moving towards a non-consumptive tourism base.
- Comments under 1 and 2, not directed to one specific objective. Commercial fishermen and recreational anglers pay $2.50 / licence for enhancement of fish resources. Government contributions should be increased (others should contribute, e.g., farmers, industry, that affect water resources).
- It is important to prioritize. This covers all aspects of fish management. It is important by addressing one problem area the other areas will fall into place.
- Again, what factors. What is meant? Too generalized.
- Objective should be clear and concise so all people can understand.
- Overall management of resource includes minimizing all factors and activities that negatively impact fish populations.
- To manage all factors and activities that impact fish populations and their habitats.
- The fish resource does not belong to any one user, we are just its caretaker.
- Removal of screens at culverts during spawning periods resulting in better migration route for the fish.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comment was recorded at the Portage la Prairie workshop.

- Policies 1 should be implemented and need to be enforced.

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 2

To minimize all factors and activities that negatively impact fish populations and their habitats.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 2

- Stop small mesh fishing on Lake Manitoba. 3" mesh back to 3 3/4" mesh.
- As above, i.e., One detriment to this, in my opinion, has been the issuing of licences to grow wild rice without any proper analysis of harmful side-effects on fish habitats and spawning areas.
- If you're actually serious, cancel the 3 inch fishery on Lake Manitoba, especially the north basin.
- To minimize commercial and anglers to a certain limits.
- Farm fertilizer and chemicals around or near waterways should be controlled and limited. Hog farms near waterways should not be allowed.
- Such as hog operations.
- Close fishing for everyone including First Nations people until spawning is over. No one would starve if this was done.
- If this implies that some natural components of an aquatic ecosystem may be altered solely to reduce a negative impact on fish, I disagree. For example, cormorants should not be slaughtered because they prey on fish.
- A lot of land users really don't care about the effect they have on the water.
- Penalize fishermen who set out their nets and then forget to fish out these nets.
- See qualifier above, i.e., I strongly agree with this objective on the basis that preservation and protection of the present status is not emphasized.
- The biggest impact on fish populations and fish sustainability is the use of small mesh nets.
- Watch fertilizers by farmer. Pollution from Selkirk on Red River. Stop the use of pesticides and fertilizers that make their way into our creeks and rivers and eventually into our lakes.
- I do not believe sport fishing has a negative impact on fish populations. I believe commercial fishing does and Aboriginal black-market fishing does.
- No - man - made - dams
- We have dyked off too many natural spawning grounds. We allow our native people to fish while fish are spawning.
- "Minimizing" all factors can be taken to an extreme. A balanced approach is essential to ensure compliance to regulations by all those affected by them.
- Let people know what they are doing wrong and how they are affecting the water system.
- Negatively impact must be defined. The removal of any fish can be construed by some as a negative impact.
- It is long overdue that the Aboriginal community get more involved in this statement. It is a resource that they continue to neglect.
- To create drainage to move water from marginal farm lands should be questioned to a great degree.
- More control should be emphasized on the chemicals that farmers use. These chemicals definitely end up in our water supply. There are rumours that the salt on roads pollutes water and kills wildlife.
- Quota allowance for commercial ventures by natives is not an inherent or treaty right. Conservation measures should be enforced for all groups where stock preservation is concerned!
- i.e., but not limited to: clear cut logging, mining, infrastructure development, hydro development, boating and urban development.
- Intermittent and continuous streams should have different criteria.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the Flin Flon workshop.

- Closure of season - possible legislation.
- Limit access to lakes - enforcement.

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 2: ***To minimize all factors and activities that negatively impact fish populations and their habitats.***

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 2

Agreed - 96% **Neutral - 2%** **Disagree - 2%**

- Stop small mesh fishing on Lake Manitoba. 3" mesh back to 3 3/4" mesh.
- As above, i.e., One detriment to this, in my opinion, has been the issuing of licences to grow wild rice without any proper analysis of harmful side-effects on fish habitats and spawning areas.
- If you're actually serious, cancel the 3 inch fishery on Lake Manitoba, especially the north basin.
- To minimize commercial and anglers to a certain limits.
- Farm fertilizer and chemicals around or near waterways should be controlled and limited. Hog farms near waterways should not be allowed.
- Such as hog operations.
- Close fishing for everyone including First Nations people until spawning is over. No one would starve if this was done.
- If this implies that some natural components of an aquatic ecosystem may be altered solely to reduce a negative impact on fish, I disagree. For example, cormorants should not be slaughtered because they prey on fish.
- A lot of land users really don't care about the effect they have on the water.
- Penalize fishermen who set out their nets and then forget to fish out these nets.
- See qualifier above, i.e., I strongly agree with this objective on the basis that preservation and protection of the present status is not emphasized.
- The biggest impact on fish populations and fish sustainability is the use of small mesh nets.
- Watch fertilizers by farmer. Pollution from Selkirk on Red River. Stop the use of pesticides and fertilizers that make their way into our creeks and rivers and eventually into our lakes.
- I do not believe sport fishing has a negative impact on fish populations. I believe commercial fishing does and Aboriginal black-market fishing does.
- No - man - made - dams
- We have dyked off too many natural spawning grounds. We allow our native people to fish while fish are spawning.
- "Minimizing" all factors can be taken to an extreme. A balanced approach is essential to ensure compliance to regulations by all those affected by them.
- Let people know what they are doing wrong and how they are affecting the water system.
- Negatively impact must be defined. The removal of any fish can be construed by some as a negative impact.
- It is long overdue that the Aboriginal community get more involved in this statement. It is a resource that they continue to neglect.
- To create drainage to move water from marginal farm lands should be questioned to a great degree.
- More control should be emphasized on the chemicals that farmers use. These chemicals definitely end up in our water supply. There are rumours that the salt on roads pollutes water and kills wildlife.
- Quota allowance for commercial ventures by natives is not an inherent or treaty right. Conservation measures should be enforced for all groups where stock preservation is concerned!
- i.e., but not limited to: clear cut logging, mining, infrastructure development, hydro development, boating and urban development.
- Intermittent and continuous streams should have different criteria.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the Flin Flon workshop.

- Closure of season - possible legislation.
- Limit access to lakes - enforcement.

SUGGESTED POLICY 1.1: ***Fish habitat shall be protected and where practical enhanced to maintain or increase its productive capacity.***

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government

1.1a Adopt the principle of "no net loss of the productive capacity of fish habitats" and apply it in the following manner:

- *a. require project proponents to assess and if necessary, prevent or mitigate significant harmful alterations to productive capacity,*
- *b. if it is impossible to prevent or mitigate harmful alterations, require project proponents to replace losses in productive capacity with like-for-like habitat replacement, in the following order of priority:*
  - *i. on site,*
  - *ii. off site, or*
  - *iii. increasing the productivity of the existing habitat;*
- *c. where like-for-like habitat replacement is not technically feasible increase the productive capacity of off site habitat for other species or require the project proponent to provide artificial fish production [e.g., hatcheries] to supplement the resource.;*
- *d. require the costs of identifying, preventing, mitigating or replacing losses in productive capacity to be covered by project proponents, including the costs of staffing, maintaining and operating hatcheries;*

1.1b Investigate the appropriateness of establishing a proponent habitat and habitat quality loss - gain ledger system and habitat compensation fund which would be used for habitat enhancement programs designed to off-set productive capacity losses;

1.1c Develop mechanisms to identify, designate and protect critical habitats including habitat for rare, vulnerable or endangered fish species;

1.1d Partner and work cooperatively with the public, Aboriginal community, stakeholders and the Canadian Government to identify significant waterways and work towards their designation as Canadian Heritage rivers.

1.1e Partner and work cooperatively with the farming industry to promote and encourage land use practices that minimize negative effects to fish habitat including water quality and quantity.

1.1f Partner and work cooperatively with industry to develop operating and development guidelines that protect and maintain fish habitat including water quality and quantity for such activities including but not limited to: aquaculture, wild rice farming, forestry operations, mining and smelting operations, hydro development, infrastructure development, boating and urban development.

1.1g Develop and implement fish habitat including water quality and quantity protection guidelines for land drainage and other water management activities.

1.1h Base fish habitat including water quality and quantity protection and enhancement activities, management and decisions on the best available scientific information and knowledge.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 1.1

Agreed - 97% Neutral -1% Disagree - 2%

- Need to stop the Treaty Indians from fishing and selling fish all and every summer. Please put a stop to this discriminative law they have!
- Should keep more ditches and streams clear in spring.
- Aboriginal fishing during pickerel spawning season should not be allowed. They harvest many kgs. of fish at this time.
- Quality and quantity of water is important to our fish habitat. Quality of water means more oxygen and more oxygen means healthier and more fish.
- 1.1h Fish habitat and production should not be based on scientific information but on actual facts and figures (i.e., weather and age of fisherman).
- ...Also the Pine Falls paper company should not be allowed to cut along the rivers (buffers) like they did at Sandy River. They cut just above a major spawning ground. This type of logging has to stop.
- 1.1a,b,iii I doubt that increasing productivity of existing habitat is sustainable. It's far better to plan development so as to minimize habitat loss or eliminate it.
- This will allow the fishermen in the north to have a say in what will happen in the future as to the dimensions of water flow by our government.
- Neutral about enhanced part.
- Spawning areas should be out of bounds for fishermen during the month of March and should include the Aboriginal population.
- Minimize soil erosion from logging; build spawning beds; ensure water quality and depth in spawning beds.
- Creeks and water ways should not be closed to prevent fish from spawning.
- Work with Ducks Unlimited to open up spawning grounds which have been closed off and turned into marshes.
- 1.1g Agriculture will have a detrimental impact in some areas. A common sense approach must be implemented in this area.
- Keep adequate supply.
- But not at all costs in all cases.
- Channelling drainage for fast removal of water from what were considered wetlands.
- By this I hope that a control on Aboriginal fishing can be reached, not that they have more rights than anyone else.
- It would seem that for some time the fisheries have completely forgotten about fish habitat or the condition of lakes and rivers.
- The government does not need the consent of industry to develop operating and development guidelines that protect and maintain fish habitat. Guidelines are not enforceable; the operating and development guidelines need to be regulations.
- Intermittent and continuous streams should have different criteria.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Gimli, Lac du Bonnet, Pine Dock, Portage la Prairie, Swan River, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- Ducks Unlimited logging cos should be made accountable for any proposed changes.
- Make point 1.1(b) stronger because habitats, even though the habitat would be replaced, it does not necessarily mean that the habitat will produce again.
- A study on the effects of the Assiniboine (Portage) diversion on undesirable organisms.
- 1.1(a) Agreed to.
- 1.1(e) More regulation is required for urban sewage treatment and nutrient downstream loading is increased. Standardized / alternative uses for irrigation - includes balanced standards.
- 1.1(f) More regulation is required for regulating nutrient loading delivered by farm operations.
- Expansion of Conservation Districts / stakeholders into areas with no such mechanism .
- North basin of Lake Manitoba total closure to fishing with education / self regulation to allow fisheries to recover.
- Consultation / remuneration with fishermen affected by closure which impacts livelihood.

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- North basin of Lake Manitoba total closure to fishing with education / self regulation to allow fisheries to recover.
- Consultation / remuneration with fishermen affected by closure which impacts livelihood.

- 1.1(h) Need to re-establish coordination of activities between wildlife organization to achieve balance of habitat establishment. Re: Lonely Lake Drain affected negatively by Ducks Unlimited marsh development.
- 1.1(a) is a good policy.
- Compensation fund should be enhanced.
- Quarry Bay - critical habits to be investigated - Kississing River.
- Get Aboriginal leaders involved.
- 1.1(f) Wild rice - very harmful to habitat - should be held responsible.
- 1.1(f) Industry regardless of size should be held accountable.
- Hog farms: Well watering on hog operation - drains close to creek or river - always seems to be located near a water source. Who is responsible for monitoring pig farms?
- Crop spraying close to lake, drainage systems kills swamps, fish, birds, all forms of life.
- Beaver pelts - bounty or subsidized for trapping beavers - destroy forests, block fish spawning.
- Clear cutting - silt eventually washes into streams.
- Unless you can effectively implement these policies, this exercise is a waste of time.
- Keep it simple.
- People are looking for quality. High quality management means good fishing.
- Municipal drainage systems, farm effluents going right into lakes and rivers. This came up in the original sustainable development workshops on water.
- In agreement to all.
- We know the Portage Diversion is a necessary thing. However, we feel that it is responsible for tremendous silting and debris collecting on the south shore of Lake Manitoba.
- We feel that this problem should be addressed perhaps by way of silt collecting and booms of some sort to prevent huge amounts of debris from entering the lake.
- We think that the provincial government should co-ordinate the activities that occur on the Portage Diversion such as mowing low flow areas, removal of bull rushes and reeds, etc.
- We feel that structure such as dams and weirs should be held to a minimum in marsh areas to allow the movement of fish and to allow the marsh levels to fluctuate.
- We opened with discussion of the no net loss policy which caused us to decide that maintenance of current water ways should take precedence over creation of new habitats. Such as enhancement of waterways such as the Roaring River, Swan, Favels, etc.
- We also felt that while this enhancement is important we feel that a drainage program which involves all of the Swan Valley watershed area is vital.
- This program should include regulation governing urban use of land as well as rural. In rural area we felt that education of farmers would be more effective in managing riparian zones.
- Another issue which we felt was important is that a statistical base line should be established meaning that a water quality rating of all major watershed should be determined so that progress may be monitored.
- Continual input from user groups to advise on fish enhancement (co-management).
- Fisheries concerns should be dealt with on a watershed basis rather than provincial boundaries.
- Quality of habitat and water - Tolko pulp and paper. Effluent reached Kelsey / Wooden tent.
- Agree.
- Concern about the small mesh fishery in north basin (and south as well).
- Concern that water is being controlled too heavily therefore affecting the natural cycles whereby streams and marshes no longer flood / dry out.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Dauphin, Garden Hill, Gimli, Pine Falls, Portage la Prairie, South Indian Lake, Thompson and Wabowden.

- Lake Manitoba - higher lake level will keep creeks going and fish coming in and out, moving around and feeding. Improve access to spawning areas.
- As a kid, remember catching perch in spring in the swamp - none there now.
- Only have 1-2 weeks for spawning - how can we rectify farmers wanting to drain their land? Ranchers get more hay when water is high - let grain farmers do their drainage first - slow down creeks using stop logs.
- If you take care of your land, the land will take care of you.
- Fishing has sustained him (fish diet). Fish in good shape long ago. Fish a lot smaller - not much fat on fish now. Quality of fish have declined. In the past people were very selective, did not fish on spawning grounds.
- Fish quality has declined - size and taste has deteriorated.
- Need to spend more time protecting streams and rivers entering into Lake Winnipeg.
- 1.1(e) Big barns should not be by a river.
- 1.1(f) Winnipeg combined sewer outlets shouldn't be allowed to happen.
- 1.1(ga) Phosphate / fertilizers affecting fish spawning and farming industry should be required to address problems.
- Protecting fish habitat - Where does Pine Falls Paper Co. get their permit to log? In the Sandy River area, they have cutting rights above a major spawning ground, and on the Manigotagan River, everyone else is reaping the benefits.
- A lot of their crossings are class 4 roads. They might bring in tamarack or whatever and make temporary bridge but they just leave it in.
- The east side is neglected. They talk about reforestation but there are no fish hatcheries.
- People with minnow licences throw away the sizes they can't use.
- People are using railway ties for docks - creosote going into the water.
- 5 1/4" mesh too big - take 10-12 lb. spawners - over harvesting.
- Carp - Used to be weeds in the mouth of the rivers where pike spawned and now they are wide open. Carp root in the mud and uproot the weeds.
- Sees decline in burbot and bullhead.
- Tramping Lake - Build-up of silt - man has accelerated process.
- Lake Winnipeg - 150 feet of shoreline lost in the last 10 years due to erosion. North wind brings the lake up 4-5 feet. A few years ago, Gimli flooded. The lake "turned over". Water can't go anywhere, now that 2-mile channel taken out.
- Lake Manitoba is silting in due to sediment from the diversion.
- Trees in lake - debris and low water affects fishery and sediments spawning areas.
- Upcoming renewal of Hydro licensing is the time for addressing negative habitat issues.
- Issues downstream of Missi, i.e., North Indian and lakes draining into.
- Fluctuating water levels damaging on other animals (nesting waterfowl and furbearing).
- Regulated flow and water level changes still affecting fish, e.g., whitefish eggs.
- Water quality is affecting humans re: drinking water.
- No net loss:
- e.g.'s, Pickwitonei project logging company co-management.
- herbicide / pesticide spraying.
- Enforcement of guidelines important. Management agency cut backs make it difficult.
- Industry learning and becoming more "in tune" "pro-active".
- Hydro impacts flows, depths.
- Important to view positives.
- Closing barn door after horse is out re: hydro / forestry impacts.
- Development will impact populations.
- Habitat issues in area - clean river of logs in Nelson House area.
- Fish Enhancement Initiative not being used in north. Scale makes it difficult. Small projects.

M121

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SUGGESTED POLICY 1.2:

Within the context of no net loss of productive capacity, water quality shall be protected and seasonal flow volumes and patterns adequate to sustain aquatic resources and processes shall be maintained.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

1.2a Review provincial water quality objectives to help ensure fish and fish habitat are protected.

1.2b Assess, revise if necessary and apply the methods for establishing instream flow requirements to sustain aquatic resources and processes.

1.2c Change water resource allocation legislation to have the sustainability of the aquatic ecosystem as its first allocation priority.

1.2d Promote and regulate where necessary, land and water management practices to prevent, eliminate or mitigate water pollution at source.

1.2e Use comprehensive environmental assessment and review processes to ensure developments, projects and processes do not degrade water quality.

1.2f Undertake a variety of initiatives, including partnerships, directed at assisting or guiding local government, industry, Aboriginal community and the public in reducing pollution at source, such as: informational programs to enhance understanding of water pollution.

1.2g Provide adequate human and financial resources to carry out the objectives of the policies.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 1.2

Agreed - 97% Neutral - 2% Disagree - 1%

- Water quality should be a top priority in all cases. There is too much herbicide and insecticides that is washed into our lakes and rivers. Clear cutting should not be allowed near our lakes and streams. Water from USA, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario, all come into Lake Winnipeg where most fish are caught commonly.
- Water flow is important to keep the water fresh and for a place for the fish to spawn.
- Local creek and waterways should be cleaned up to allow proper water flow.
- Water Resources plays an important role in Lake Manitoba. Running the Diversion (Portage) this spring should be regulated properly, the sediment from the Diversion is hurting this lake.
- Along the Manigotagan River system and east side of Lake Winnipeg I would like to see a ban on all materials used for dock building that is treated with creosote or soaked in other pressure treated solutions...Stop all cottage development along the Lake Winnipeg shores that don't have the proper septic or sewage system...The government (Highways yard) in Manigotagan should be moved also there is a lot of run off every year, just above the Falls and the community drinking water intake is just below...To have good fish production you have to have good water quality and I feel we don't have that in this area. The bottom of the Manigotagan River has 5 feet of silt (see attached) and also a lot of old logs from the sawmill days.

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- The S.B.R. unit that Northern Affairs has put in this community is polluting the water as well raw sewage is going right into the river...Manitoba Hydro is also to blame for poor fish production as well, I feel since they put all the hydro dams on the north end of Lake Winnipeg. There is no current on the east side of the lake. The fish needs current to move. Something is wrong, no current all winter...The old mines from the Bissett area has polluted the water as well, the last time they pump Bissett mine out all that water from the mine has made its way to Lake Winnipeg through the Manigotagan and Wanipigow river systems. I feel this has a big impact on the environment...Also the spraying of herbicides and pesticides by the Pine Falls Paper Company has a big impact on the water quality in this area.
- Water Quality: In July 1998 a train derailed at the JCT.#1 and #16. A railcar spilled 60,000 litres of anti freeze base into Rat Creek or Willowbend as it is known there. To my knowledge no clean up was ever done, the newspapers report it wasn't necessary. That creek smelled all summer and now with spring runoff it will be making its way to the Whitemud River and Lake Manitoba. The lower end of the creek is a valuable spawning area and I suppose they (the fish) will have to learn to digest anti-freeze!
- This will likely become the most important single water issue in southern Manitoba over the next 10-20 years.
- Further to the comment above, the only way we can serve our next generation is to protect and sustain this natural reserve by insuring the quality of our foresight in what effects the flow of water will effect the fish habitat and migration, also their spawning grounds.
- Lake levels should be raised to bring lakes up to a more substantial level allowing creeks to slow down spring run's, allowing fish to have better spawn. You talk to older fishermen who were on the lake for 50-60 years and fishing was always better, so why are we keeping our lake levels low.

  Winter of 98-99 our fish on the north end of Lake Manitoba our water level was low and fish were getting low on oxygen. People on Lake Winnipeg say their lake level is high so why not close the dam at Fairford to raise our lake level up. (Manitoba)... When Lake Winnipegosis's fish stocks started to drop is when the dam at Fairford was opened which makes me believe as people we screwed with nature...But as modern technology advances we are losing on spawning grounds as you look at creeks now, why aren't the fish coming up the creek's (what 's in the water chemicals, to fast of run off, not keeping creek levels a little higher). What other affects are there? These studies should be done first.
- I strongly agree because water in Lake Winnipeg is very polluted. There is a brownish stuff that floats around and destroys our nets.
- By watching levels controlled by Manitoba Hydro.
- Construct weirs where necessary.
- Should be more than adequate. Meaning have more water than less water.
- 1.2 b+c With an ever increasing demand for irrigation for potato production, every precaution must be taken not to "over allocate" supply on dry years.
- i.e., one draw down in autumn hold that level until April.
- Natural flows are more vital to overall environmental health than continuous adjustments.
- Healthy water systems usually have a good fish population, ecosystem.
- Projects of fast land drainage and projects such as Ducks Unlimited have been major problems of intermittent streams.
- The policy seems to be to drain the north basin of Lake Manitoba every fall. It really lowered the lake as there was little or no rain last year!...Is no one concerned about the dirty water pouring into Lake Manitoba from the Portage Diversion (Assiniboine River). Where are the burbot, freshwater drum and carp coming from? The carp have been a problem for some time! They (carp) root out the weeds and make large holes in the lake bottom. Why allow more problems to develop when there are already problems?...The watering of cattle from the lake both summer and winter still goes on. Rafts of manure sitting on ice can still be found floating around in the spring. Farmers should be assisted with the digging of in-land water supplies such as dugouts, wells, and water collection systems... Saw-mills were a major pollutant of rivers and streams. Hope this problem has been addressed.

- Look at effects of diversions (Lake Manitoba - Winnipegosis). Perhaps evaluate needs for dredging. Are motor boats and ice fishing shacks creating pollution?
- We should strive above "no net loss" by implementing plans to reduce and reverse the pollution we have today as per 1.2d.
- Assiniboine Diversion also ruining the fishery... Farm chemicals destroying fishery.

Group Workshop Comments

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- PFRA could encourage more cattlemen that they offer assistance for an alternate cattle watering system as opposed to cattle drinking from creeks, streams, etc.
- Raise the returns on aluminium cans, plastic.
- Agree.
- Water quality is an issue (agricultural, hydro, industry pollutants.). Water monitoring needed on rivers, stream, etc. Large livestock operations should not be near drainage or natural waterways.
- Prevent contamination of water resources by projects such as "back door" Garrison Diversion projects. No foreign species introduction!
- Dams - not a natural flow of water. Who monitors water flowing in?
- Great Falls does not meet this policy
- Should dump water from Winnipeg River through old Pinawa Channel to flush it out and flush out Lee River.
- Winnipeg River has cleaned up since 1960's
- Work with Manitoba Hydro to make water and flow fluctuation less variable.
- Standardization of municipal bylaws.
- In agreement to all.
- We as a group agree in principle with the suggested policies however we strongly recommend that the Government implement their own policies. Both for Policy Area # 1 + # 6.
- Guidelines re: wild rice harvesting may not be sufficient guarantee water quality (oxygen supply for fish).
- Need to create a structure in drainage ditches.
- If going to create drainage ditches need to study affects beforehand.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Brandon, Dauphin, Garden Hill, Lac du Bonnet, Pine Dock, Pine Falls, Portage la Prairie and South Indian Lake.

- People want to remove water from lowlands.
- Cabin owners, anglers, and commercial fishermen on Lake Manitoba. Lots of changes over the years.
- Question running the diversion for so long - process of the waterway ageing naturally is interfered with. Running two big flows for at least a month - flood water with lots of silt and garbage in it - can see the difference in colour from the south basin to the north basin.
- Before we build more floodways and dams, should investigate the diversion and the impacts it has had.
- Government should review the operation of the Assiniboine Diversion / floodway / Fairford before operating.
- Old timers who didn't even have Grade 5 told us long ago that we would regret this.
- Contaminants - farms - chemicals and fertilizers - North Winnipegosis - what used to come up to spawn doesn't anymore. Must be something in the water.
- Everything's going to hurt. In spring runoff, can see manure in the water - not a nice colour but still safe.
- Cattle producers elsewhere share concerns.
- Lake levels - Lake Dauphin - El Nino will always mean various water levels - many appreciated high water levels years ago, sand beaches, extremely good water quality. Kept water up on sandy beaches where wind didn't mix up mud.
- Is there any possible way levels could be kept high with this in mind? Could try to hold back a greater volume of water and disperse it as needed.

- Mossy River drains the lake. Could hold back less water from going down the Mossy.
- Maintain Lake Dauphin at higher levels.
- Lake Dauphin Advisory Board: Report from Water Resources predicting 855.3; if they get another inch of rain on Monday, predicting 855.5. The "bottom is coming to the top". - The lake is filling in and getting shallower.
- With the Mossy River "wide open", the outflow is 320 cfs. Here is about 5,000 cfs going in. With a north wind, the outflow drops - hard to regulate.
- Three days ago, started pulling the logs and it went up 3 inches in three days. (Regulated level is 854.8 - max. in mid-June; min. is 854.3.)
- It if is hot and sunny, the lake drops down more due to evaporation than what goes out the Mossy.
- Projects: the first is to clear the drain (the Mossy River). They have a consultant talking to all the users. Putting together a plan of action.
- Pollution in Island Lake - boat traffic has increased dramatically - oil / gas mixture a major problem. Big Horn mine (polluting waters.
- Variation in flows on Winnipeg River can go from 30,000cfs to 6,000 cfs in a matter of minutes. Spawning areas can be dried up later the same day. Fish regeneration isn't the same anymore.
- Lake Winnipeg water levels and silt at creek mouths. Fry stranded in creeks.
- Hydro has whole north end of the lake blocked off, less current, dirty, water levels down therefore water quality down equals no fish.
- Treaties / lodge owners - more cottage development - What are they doing with their sewage problems?
- They have been spraying around Sandy River for the last 15-20 years - gets into the water.
- Petrochlorophenol / creosote problems in Manigotagan - 5 ft of silt on the bottom - have to start looking into it - water quality concerns with this stuff floating around.
- All Pine Falls is interested in is trees - they don't care about water quality, spawning grounds.
- Insecticide they are using could kill fish, especially larval stages. They do aerial and ground application.
- Water quality: When Bissett mine first opened, they pumped out of a 6" line for a few months right into the water. Remembers standing with his father on the bridge in June watching the brown water come in and his father saying, "Here comes your mine water now" (about 3 years ago).
- Water is poisonous. Whole mine is recycled and fuel oil, amex, etc. all get into water. How many gallons came out? Didn't have tailings pond then - just pumped directly into Rice Lake.
- There's 25 seasonal campsites along the river another 30 just upstream.
- Campground is licensed for 90 people - only one toilet and one greywater site approved and put in last year...asked for 2 toilets and another greywater site or one toilet and sewage disposal. This is typical government. There's problems with the water quality. He would put in the facilities but government dictates what he can charge so he's not going to put them in. The problem is on the Parks Branch side.
- Only one holding privy right now. People are going to be digging holes.
- Little current in Lake Winnipeg for last few years. Little water coming in. Gammon River is down 6-7 feet (although this can change quickly if they get a lot of rain in Ontario). Rapids on Bloodvein so low right now that you have to drag your boat through the rocks.
- The Portage Diversion is running right now (May 10). Wondering if the diversion needed to be running. There seemed to be a feeling that downstream areas like Headingly had allowed building on the flood-plain (as in too close to the river) and that the Diversion had to be run to prevent flooding there. The present use of the diversion did not seem to be approved of.
- The Portage Diversion is spoiling the south basin (of Lake Manitoba).
- The Portage Diversion will ruin Delta Marsh spawning.
- When the Portage Diversion is operated grasses (and other materials) go to Lake Manitoba and end up being blown back onto the lakeshore. What will that do to spawning?
- The silt and other material going to the lake (from the diversion) will hurt spawning.

M121

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- There are materials (like silt and other materials-trees and so forth) coming down the Diversion and people are living on the lake.
- Could not see why the Diversion was running now especially when it is sending "stuff" to the lake.
- The Portage Diversion is speeding up aging of the lake. There is something like 2-3 times the (natural?) sediment going down the diversion. It affects cattle producers on the lake too... It affects cottage owners and others.
- Saugers in the south basin of Lake Manitoba have disappeared due to the Portage Diversion. Over the last 4-5 years especially it has been continuously operated.
- They were supposed to have something (a trash rack and or other sediment controls) on the diversion to take out the "junk".
- Houses at Headingly are constructed too low so the Portage Diversion has to be used (to prevent flooding). They shouldn't be allowed to.
- The Whitemud River has cattle in the river and this may be ruining spawning grounds. Is there any money to keep the cattle away? The cattlemen's association does not have money but organizations like Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation have money. Promotion is needed, the program needs to be voluntary, and funding needs to be kept in place. Fishermen asked if cattle were indeed ruining spawning grounds. Cattlemen replied that there were buffalo in the lake in the past.
- Garbage from cities as well as salt and snow piles were being dumped in riparian zones and going into rivers and lakes. Also, detergents and oil slicks, from boats on upstream lakes, need to be addressed.
- Water level fluctuations damaging to fish and fishery.

SUGGESTED POLICY 1.3:

Degraded or damaged fish habitat shall be rehabilitated, restored, or new habitat established, where practical.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

1.3a Rehabilitate degraded habitats, enhance existing habitats and develop new habitats, where economic, biological and \ or social benefits generated by the increased fish productivity warrant;

1.3b Promote public awareness and education in the areas of habitat protection, rehabilitation and enhancement.

1.3c Establish partnerships with and provide guidance and support to private individuals and organizations authorized to undertake habitat enhancement and rehabilitation projects and activities by providing technical assistance and where appropriate project funding through the Manitoba Fisheries Enhancement Initiative.

1.3d Promote and support the development, application and testing of new methods for rehabilitation, mitigation and enhancement of habitat.

1.3e Develop agreements and partnerships with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and other agencies to direct scientific research to provide information and technology necessary for the protection, rehabilitation restoration and enhancement of habitat.

1.3f Develop an inventory of degraded or damaged habitats which are of provincial significance and conduct feasibility studies to determine the full costs and benefits of rehabilitating or restoring the habitats.

1.3g Establish partnerships and promote, support and encourage initiatives directed at the stewardship and rehabilitation of waterways by the Aboriginal community, various groups and organizations.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 1.3

Agree - 97% **Neutral - 3%** **Disagree - 0%**

- Lessen the number of high paid conservation officers, especially those that think they are god.
- Beaver dams should be removed from some spawning creeks and streams.
- 1.3f where issuance of timber harvest licence leaves a 15 meter buffer zone in a fish enhancement area we are jeopardizing the entire area.
- Practical to whom? Some policies may be put in place by officials who haven't left their offices-which may sound good in theory-lack a common sense approach and may end up costing an excessive amount.
- Promote and support the development, application and testing of new methods for rehabilitation, mitigation and enhancement of habitat.
- 1.3a. I think this is very important-let the fish go where they want to go and/or where they have always gone.
- Check out and stop the logging by the Pine Falls Paper Company along the Sandy River area just above a major spawning ground.
- If this is possible we should start this where the habitat has been most effected by Manitoba Hydro and other industries that have polluted the fishes habitat.
- There is a need to ensure that natural vegetation remains on stream banks to reduce / eliminate erosion. This will also assist in reducing the amount of chemical that gets into the water flow.
- Fish habitat especially spawning areas should be rehabilitated where practical.
- We too often overlook opportunities to improve and repair because we fixate on prevention.
- The bottom line is that Manitoba Hydro on all rivers in Manitoba. Manitoba Hydro don't pay taxes so they should be stocking fish and fixing a fishing stream so fish can spawn in spawning season. Have fish ladders.
- I think this should include specifically the restoring of creeks and waterways that have been reduced to "drainage ditches" over the many recent years.
- Velde Creek is silted in because of logging in the area.
- Allow fish to get back to their natural spawning grounds which were completely closed off by Ducks Unlimited.
- Might be difficult to restore because it might affect other organisms habitat (trucks / rocks more sedimentation). Turbidity might rise.
- These are very good questions but who dictates water and land use - not Fisheries!
- Also where economically feasible, don't spend millions and then have a size limit or catch and release.
- The policy that is suggested should have been in place for at least the past eight years. You're building fish habitat after the fish have gone! -Control, pick up broken fishing line, minnow containers and general garbage that gets left behind. -Inform anglers not to fish in an area where pickerel rigs can break off and litter the lake bottom. Stronger fishing line could also be used as a prevention. Is there not a concern about the lead sinkers used by anglers and commercial fishermen alike?
- Government should develop partnership agreements with special interest groups such as wildlife, or fishing societies who can donate the labour portion for example.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Gimli, Pine Dock, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- Will this clause be grandfathered? If the damage happened today and the policy comes into effect 4 years from now, will the habitat need to be repaired.
- Agree but high priority.
- Youth should be incorporated in the process.
- More education required.
- 1.3(g) Must encourage Aboriginal communities to be involved.
- Should be a place that one can go to - to take a complaint or concern to - such as an advisory board.
- In agreement.
- Partnerships with user groups are vital in rehabilitating habitat.

SUGGESTED POLICY 1.7:

Irreparable harm and adverse effects from the introduction or transfer of aquatic organisms shall be anticipated and prevented or mitigated.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

1.7a Prohibit the introduction or transfer of all aquatic organisms, unless otherwise approved.

1.7b Investigate the benefits of establishing an "Aquatics Introduction and Transfer Committee" whose purpose would be to:

a. review applications for the introduction or transfer of aquatic organisms into or within the Province of Manitoba and based upon a risk assessment recommend approval or denial of each application to the minister, and

b. establish through public, Aboriginal community and stakeholder consultations best provincial management practices to govern the planned importation, introduction and transfer of aquatic organisms for the purposes of:

i. stocking Manitoba waters,

ii. commercial activity including the sale for human consumption, the hobby trade, lodge and outfitting operations and live bait fish operations,

iii. recreational angling, and

iv. research.

1.7c Develop and implement programs and partnerships to increase awareness of the risks and adverse effects associated with the introduction, transfer and spread of undesirable aquatic organisms.

1.7d Establish partnerships and work with industry, interest groups, Aboriginal community and the public to establish measures to prevent adverse effects of accidental introductions or transfers of aquatic organisms.

1.7e Develop guidelines, practices and conditions to govern the responsibilities of authorized individuals, commercial enterprises and groups in spawn taking, rearing and stocking of species.

1.7f Assess activities in and outside Manitoba that could introduce aquatic organisms via inter-basin transfer and oppose such activities where appropriate.

1.7g Investigate other means of introduction or transfer of aquatic organisms, e.g., bait bucket transfer and introduction of diseased fish and the associated risk to fish and habitat and develop actions to prevent adverse effects.

1.7h Partner and work cooperatively with other jurisdictions to identify risks, adverse effects and measures to prevent the cross border introduction, transfer and spread of harmful aquatic organisms.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 1.7

[redacted]

- Prohibit the introduction or transfer of all aquatic organisms unless otherwise approved.
- Hasn't Lake Manitoba's fish stocks added carp, bullheads, anything else?, over the years that were never here before?
- Because of our position downstream from 3 provinces and 3 states, any effective introduction policy must include agreements with these jurisdictions.
- No comment.
- Is this doable.
- Constant vigilance required.
- Care must be taken that aquatic organisms from other rivershed areas are not introduced into areas where they would be a detriment.
- Stop the Aboriginal peoples from blocking off rivers and streams with their nets so they say they need this fish for food. It's a crock. Food is so easy to get voucher. Food any kind of food.
- Good job on zebra mussels - not so good on purple loosestrife.
- All fishing of sturgeon including the treaty harvest should stop for a time.
- You should delete sturgeon from Master Angler's listing.
- Non native species can have a negative effect on native species plus the environment.
- Keep the Portage Diversion shut. There should have been an environmental study done before this was allowed.
- Awareness of how certain organisms affect the water and the best way to treat them so if it happens something can be done to prevent harm to the ecosystem.
- It doesn't hurt to try, but try to work on an ecosystem basis rather than political borders.
- Irreparable harm and adverse effects must be proven and not assumed.
- Any program that can help in this area should be planned and discussed.
- In this day and age in Manitoba we have introduced species to the wild that are not appreciated so what's the concern?
- Have seen some pretty dirty boats dropped into Lake Manitoba. There should be more boat scrub stations on #six (6) highway!
- Some of these are transferred by birds but boats do also.
- Special attention is needed to stop the indiscriminate spread of wild rice in the north. This program is putting tremendous biological strain on our watersheds.
- Agree but realistically may prove impossible to prevent.
- Water bomber used in fighting forest fires may transfer aquatic organisms between bodies of water. Further study may be needed to seek manageable ways to control this.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Gimli, Lac du Bonnet, Pine Dock and The Pas.

- How do you control the transfer of all aquatic organisms?
- Agree in principle. Stress education and self-regulation.
- Management of live bait issue needs to be handled as a separate policy, not included with policy 1.7.
- Wild rice harvesting is a problem, cleanup after harvesting the rice is not even being followed through. Suggest a method of cleaning up the area and maybe paying the harvester to clean up the area. Oxygen level seems to be affected as well as the fish stocks.
- Support all policies.
- There is currently a variety of rules, regulations or guidelines in effect that if implemented and enforced would meet the necessary requirements.
- P.S. more guidelines, practices and conditions do not need to be implemented. This would only cause confusing duplication of what we presently have. We should simplify the definition of our actions unlike the presentation we are currently attending.
- The application of policies will go on, based on the interpretation of those who are not in the know.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.1

Agree - [illegible] Neutral - [illegible] Disagree - [illegible]

- A closer watch must be kept on Aboriginals whose right to fish for their own use has too often become a commercial business.
- The use of small nets in pickerel areas is wrong and should be corrected. The mesh size of nets should be seriously looked at. The small pickerel that is being taken out of the south end of Lake Winnipeg is a disgrace. These are immature fish that will never have a chance to reproduce. Speaking to the representatives from Alberta they cannot see how the government could allow three (3) inch mesh nets to be used in a pickerel area. If something is not done about this then all our writing and regulations are in vain.
- Aboriginal people take a large portion of fish during spawn season.
- Proposal #1. Trophy fish in Red River. - Harvesting trophy fish should apply to all ages as a family can take as many as they want if the kids are under 16. Have them buy a licence and sign it, or the guardian has to claim it and then no more for the rest of the year. "Rape" of fish stock happens regularly with youth taking them and then there are a decrease supply. This should apply to Red River walleye at Pinefalls area.
- Agree with 2.1ab, an effort should be made to leave fish alone during spawning season by both commercial fishermen and anglers.
- The fishing industry and government of Manitoba need only to look east or west to see what mismanagement of this resource will do. I believe fishing should be reduced or suspended on Lake Manitoba. At the very least the 3 inch fishery should be stopped immediately. We have seen stocks are very slow to recover in the east coast area. The recreational fisherman would like to see some steps taken to ensure fish stocks are in fact in good shape.
- But, remember that you need to preserve aquatic ecosystems to preserve fish stocks.
- When conflicting opinions crop up on specific fish management issues (and they will!), always lean toward the preservation of the resource rather than the economic well-being of resource user.
- I believe if there is no consensus on the population of fish stocks this will have a negative effect to the future of fishing.
- The idea of "out of bounds" spawning areas for all is a very efficient use of the population of fish.
- The problem with this policy is that it links a long term feature (sustainability) to a short term action (allocation).
- Very little done particular at Rocky Lake by Wanless. Only lip service no money, no Staff are reasons given.
- Would it be possible to stop the fishing completely during the spawning runs, everyone including treaty.
- I don't think it's fair to take too many fish from a good habitat to reward another area who abused their stocks...In our area we have a lot of natives fishing with nets in the spawning areas...Killing fish with a belly full of eggs is the most irresponsible way of managing our resources...In our area we can buy pickerel fillets all spring long caught and sold by natives in the spring spawning grounds...The law enforcement agencies should be doing more to stop this legal poaching! With more undercover agents trying to stop this sort of thing with jail terms and high fines for the Natives, and very high fines for the fish buyers and loss of hunting and fishing rights for 1 year. Our spawning areas around our area are getting very depleted of adult fish.
- Shut down small mesh nets on Lake Manitoba.
- But it also depends on the species.
- By all parties.
- Aboriginal treaty and constitutional obligations should be looked at, as all peoples have rights!
- It would be nice if your policy took into consideration the fish stock utilized by the Aboriginal community - especially the taking of spawning fish!
- I'm also very concerned about the practice known as "smuggling", in which fish, usually walleye, are illegally taken, filleted, and sold to seafood stores or restaurants or individuals. Fish are usually taken when they are most vulnerable, during the spring spawning runs...Something has to be done to protect fish during this critical time, (spawning), perhaps the banning of food fishing during spawning, or banning of nets in spawning areas, mouths of creeks and rivers, and in creeks and rivers during spawning.

- Programs should be centred around limiting the resource depletion not limiting the opportunity to participate in an activity.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at he workshops in Dauphin, Flin Flon, Gimli, Pine Dock, Portage la Prairie, The Pas, Thompson and Winnipeg.

- All agree.
- Make sure we are re-stocking the lakes with good fish stock.
- Cormorants are a major problem to the fish populations.
- Cormorants aren't particular about what they eat.
- Harvest the cormorant eggs and put a control on how many are hatched.
- Spray the cormorant eggs through birth control.
- Net fishing on stocked lakes is a problem, how can a stocked lake be netted?
- Educate the public on fishing regulations and make sure those who are uneducated get the education on fishing.
- Better management.
- 2.1(c) 2.1(d) Would like a data base established so comparisons can be accurate.
- 2.1(e) Educate everyone that fishing for sustenance does not mean selling like a business.
- 2.1(f) Before actions are taken on what is harvested all factors should be considered such as catch effort, weather, etc.
- Data base.
- Commercial fishing should be No. 1 priority in areas where its sole (main) economy.
- Spring dates early for spawning season more research on opening date for spring.
- No hard feeling when June 1 opening dates.
- Too early most years 1986
- Net sizes now too small (2 7/8") 3" was good.
- 2.1(a) good. Protection of fish spawning areas by all interested parties.
- 2.1(b) Good increase fines, more enforcement.
- 2.1(c) Need more monitoring. Research good.
- 2.1(d) Good.
- 2.1(e) Good.
- 2.1(f) Good.
- Better monitoring for anglers, whereas the commercial fishery is very controlled and closely monitored, i.e., Mesh size, size of fish, restriction of fishing seasons. They are limited allocation of commercial fish licences whereas angling licences are unlimited.
- Unknown impact of sport fishery and lack of public awareness. There has been talk of anglers filling limit 3 times a day.
- How can you constitute good / bad fishing, what numbers are used, how are the monitors done, are there enough resources to be these monitors.
- Establish numbers for fishing lakes or rivers once you establish the numbers you can monitor the fish levels.
- Sustainability wasn't applied to certain lakes. Result: They are being fished out!
- Must have a better method of controlling the fish levels at the lakes.
- Control access to the lakes which are being fished out. Cowan Bay / Yawning Stone.
- Check stops for fishing, not just in the spring or the fall.
- Raise the fines for people getting caught over the limit. Unless the new limit is passed through the federal act and provincial system.
- Make sure proper monitors are done in those areas not formerly available by road, in order to observe the levels before they are fished out. If the fish levels drop-off a restock program should be implemented.
- Minnowing monitors might be a solution to fish stock levels.
- 2.1b sturgeon and illegal fishing.
- Agree strongly - sustainability 1st priority.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Brandon, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Gimli, Norway House, Pine Dock, Portage la Prairie, South Indian Lake, Thompson and Wabowden.

- Anglers accuse commercial fishermen of taking too much fish.

- Commercial fishing is a livelihood-not a pleasurable past time-even though they might enjoy the work. Should it not be on the top of the list?
- Recreational fishing brings in big $ to hotel, food, entertainment, licence, etc. A quota for those who need to fish to survive should be considered.
- Commercial fishing creates employment and an income to many people. I feel this should be taken into consideration before recreational fishing, although recreational fishing also generates money.
- The commercial fishery isn't being given a high enough priority. It is the life blood of many communities.
- Social services provide $205.00 per month for one adult and to wait for consideration would mean third world hunger for those on reserves.
- Statements a-c OK, but how do you separate tourism from other recreational harvest? Is a Manitoba resident a tourist if they go to a lodge to fish? - Or do you have to be a non-resident to be a tourist?
- Recreational fishing is a pastime. Commercial fishing is done to earn a living.
- Subsistence harvesting should only be allowed to persons who voluntarily withdraw from the social welfare system.
- Commercial fishers are having a hard time as it is, there should be compensation for this industry just like the farmers in our country.
- I see quality recreational fishing and tourist fishing the same - provide catchable fish at expense of large bag limit...there should be mechanism available to provide subsistence licence to those in need that identifies or authorizes on a sliding scale of weight or mass of fish the amount permitted on individual basis. Licence free. There is no way you can manage the resource without having acceptable trustworthy harvest data.
- Commercial fishermen should be considered before recreational fishermen are. As commercial fishermen are heavily dependent on the resource.
- Recreational fishing normally takes only the good fish and leaves an overabundance of the rough fish which then take over the lakes, etc.
- See 2.2, i.e., Native Aboriginal should be treated as residents. Controls should be put on all their harvests.
- Commercial net first.
- Commercial net fishing shall be allocated number 1.
- Priorities should be allowed to vary in situations that meet specific criteria.
- When I see 80 million in revenue from recreational fishing I think recreational fishing should have over all priority.
- Recreational fishing should be limited. And commercial net and tourism towards fishing.
- Areas should be set aside for recreational fishing just as areas should be set aside for tourist fishing.
- In some remote communities there may be cases where point 2 should take precedence because of much greater local benefit which can help offset welfare costs.
- Fishing as a way of life should come before any recreational activity.
- I would like to see the commercial fishing on south basin of Lake Winnipeg and promote the sport angling on the Red River by putting a special licence on the Red and Winnipeg River below Pine Falls to buy out the commercial licences.
- People earning a living should have equal rights with recreational users.
- Commercial fishermen should come before recreation. Recreational fishermen should not be given priority over people making their living fishing. Also does not use race as a factor.
- Existing allocated lakes for commercial fishing be maintained and rough fish allocations be increased.
- If commercial fishermen were to get most fish stocks they will put it in the spots most needed at because they know the areas best and fishermen put the fish in more general areas where their access is best.
- Do I as a commercial fisherman become a tourist?
- Tourism should be put ahead of commercial fishing.
- Ticked off "strongly agree" but crossed out "and treaty and constitutional obligations are met".
- Again, Treaty and constitutional obligations infer an elite class with regard to natural resources.

- As a recreational user I do not want to pick sides here, I feel that the commercial fishery has to take a look at itself and address their use of the resource.
- This is not the way it is perceived for allocation now. The tourism trade seems to be the major player.
- Providing the treaties are re-vamped and some control is imposed on Aboriginal fishing.
- Established businesses within the fishing industry need to be prioritized. Recreation fishing must be secondary.
- #1 and #2 are to be met, before treaty and constitutional obligations.
- Our local people should be looked after first - recreational fishing is important.
- Where viable, commercial fishing should be given priority (southern lakes). Where not viable, due to shipping costs, etc. (northern lakes) recreational fishing and tourism should be encouraged and promoted.
- Necessary to clarify definition on treaty and constitutional obligations.
- Remember that commercial fishermen earn their living from fishing. Recreational fishing is how workers can spend their money.
- One law for all mankind no matter what colour as God has made it.
- Commercial fishing specially including treaty's.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Gimli, Portage la Prairie, The Pas, Thompson and Winnipeg.

- Disagree as written - one not more important than the next.
- Note: Treaty and constitutional obligations are not limitless.
- Priority ranking system not applicable to every lake, as in many cases, commercial fishing provides more of a community benefit to that area, than does recreational fishing - therefore this allocation system is not applicable across the province on all lakes - perhaps done on lake to lake basis.
- Setting priority allocations has to consider local economy, along with all other variables (physical, ecological,...).
- Educate people on how to clean a fish properly. Jack fish are not that bad a fish to eat.
- Design fishing regulations so people are better educated on good quality fish (eating, cleaning and cooking).
- Change the seasons for stocks, make the spawning season more of a success, fish stocks increase.
- Increase the limits Lake Athapapuskow and other lakes. It won't harm the lakes and might increase the walleye population. More jackfish, suckers, etc. makes the walleye population stronger.
- 2.3(a) concur
- 2.3(b) Evaluate all new harvest requests.
- 2.3(c) concur
- Orders of priority are wrong. Commercial fishermen make the resources available to all Manitobans while sports fishing only make it available to 15% of population.
- Tourism related fish harvesters should not be included with commercial fishermen.
- Order.
- Good.
- Sport versus commercial fishery:
- Why is the Sport fishing priority as opposed to the commercial fishery. Is this an admission by the government that the anglers are over harvesting.
- Rewrite 2.3 make it clearer.
- Not enough resource for everyone to continue fishing the way we are, i.e., Landry Lake. What happened to all the fish in the lake?
- Angling attracts more bang for the buck over commercial fishing. If good angling location then commercial fishing must go elsewhere to do their fishing. Disagree. Anglers have a much longer season, and can really impact populations. It's easy for anglers to abuse / ignore limits. We don't have enough facts on this. Which of the above has the highest affect on fish stocks.
- Be sure the commercial fishing is done responsibly - no smaller than the resource can handle.
- Regulation on size of hooks required like net.
- Allocation Northern Flood Agreement. Not taken away but grandfathered out.

- There are materials (like silt and other materials-trees and so forth) coming down the Diversion and people are living on the lake.
- Could not see why the Diversion was running now especially when it is sending "stuff" to the lake.
- The Portage Diversion is speeding up aging of the lake. There is something like 2-3 times the (natural?) sediment going down the diversion. It affects cattle producers on the lake too... It affects cottage owners and others.
- Saugers in the south basin of Lake Manitoba have disappeared due to the Portage Diversion. Over the last 4-5 years especially it has been continuously operated.
- They were supposed to have something (a trash rack and or other sediment controls) on the diversion to take out the "junk".
- Houses at Headingly are constructed too low so the Portage Diversion has to be used (to prevent flooding). They shouldn't be allowed to.
- The Whitemud River has cattle in the river and this may be ruining spawning grounds. Is there any money to keep the cattle away? The cattlemen's association does not have money but organizations like Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation have money. Promotion is needed, the program needs to be voluntary, and funding needs to be kept in place. Fishermen asked if cattle were indeed ruining spawning grounds. Cattlemen replied that there were buffalo in the lake in the past.
- Garbage from cities as well as salt and snow piles were being dumped in riparian zones and going into rivers and lakes. Also, detergents and oil slicks, from boats on upstream lakes, need to be addressed.
- Water level fluctuations damaging to fish and fishery.

SUGGESTED POLICY 1.3:

Degraded or damaged fish habitat shall be rehabilitated, restored, or new habitat established, where practical.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

1.3a Rehabilitate degraded habitats, enhance existing habitats and develop new habitats, where economic, biological and \ or social benefits generated by the increased fish productivity warrant;

1.3b Promote public awareness and education in the areas of habitat protection, rehabilitation and enhancement.

1.3c Establish partnerships with and provide guidance and support to private individuals and organizations authorized to undertake habitat enhancement and rehabilitation projects and activities by providing technical assistance and where appropriate project funding through the Manitoba Fisheries Enhancement Initiative.

1.3d Promote and support the development, application and testing of new methods for rehabilitation, mitigation and enhancement of habitat.

1.3e Develop agreements and partnerships with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and other agencies to direct scientific research to provide information and technology necessary for the protection, rehabilitation restoration and enhancement of habitat.

1.3f Develop an inventory of degraded or damaged habitats which are of provincial significance and conduct feasibility studies to determine the full costs and benefits of rehabilitating or restoring the habitats.

1.3g Establish partnerships and promote, support and encourage initiatives directed at the stewardship and rehabilitation of waterways by the Aboriginal community, various groups and organizations.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 1.3

- Lessen the number of high paid conservation officers, especially those that think they are god.
- Beaver dams should be removed from some spawning creeks and streams.
- 1.3f where issuance of timber harvest licence leaves a 15 meter buffer zone in a fish enhancement area we are jeopardizing the entire area.
- Practical to whom? Some policies may be put in place by officials who haven't left their offices-which may sound good in theory-lack a common sense approach and may end up costing an excessive amount.
- Promote and support the development, application and testing of new methods for rehabilitation, mitigation and enhancement of habitat.
- 1.3a. I think this is very important-let the fish go where they want to go and/or where they have always gone.
- Check out and stop the logging by the Pine Falls Paper Company along the Sandy River area just above a major spawning ground.
- If this is possible we should start this where the habitat has been most effected by Manitoba Hydro and other industries that have polluted the fishes habitat.
- There is a need to ensure that natural vegetation remains on stream banks to reduce / eliminate erosion. This will also assist in reducing the amount of chemical that gets into the water flow.
- Fish habitat especially spawning areas should be rehabilitated where practical.
- We too often overlook opportunities to improve and repair because we fixate on prevention.
- The bottom line is that Manitoba Hydro on all rivers in Manitoba. Manitoba Hydro don't pay taxes so they should be stocking fish and fixing a fishing stream so fish can spawn in spawning season. Have fish ladders.
- I think this should include specifically the restoring of creeks and waterways that have been reduced to "drainage ditches" over the many recent years.
- Velde Creek is silted in because of logging in the area.
- Allow fish to get back to their natural spawning grounds which were completely closed off by Ducks Unlimited.
- Might be difficult to restore because it might affect other organisms habitat (trucks / rocks more sedimentation). Turbidity might rise.
- These are very good questions but who dictates water and land use - not Fisheries!
- Also where economically feasible, don't spend millions and then have a size limit or catch and release.
- The policy that is suggested should have been in place for at least the past eight years. You're building fish habitat after the fish have gone! -Control, pick up broken fishing line, minnow containers and general garbage that gets left behind. -Inform anglers not to fish in an area where pickerel rigs can break off and litter the lake bottom. Stronger fishing line could also be used as a prevention. Is there not a concern about the lead sinkers used by anglers and commercial fishermen alike?
- Government should develop partnership agreements with special interest groups such as wildlife, or fishing societies who can donate the labour portion for example.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Gimli, Pine Dock, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- Will this clause be grandfathered? If the damage happened today and the policy comes into effect 4 years from now, will the habitat need to be repaired.
- Agree but high priority.
- Youth should be incorporated in the process.
- More education required.
- 1.3(g) Must encourage Aboriginal communities to be involved.
- Should be a place that one can go to - to take a complaint or concern to - such as an advisory board.
- In agreement.
- Partnerships with user groups are vital in rehabilitating habitat.

- The Churchill River and fish habitat has been significantly impacted by Saskatchewan Power and Manitoba Hydro dams and water regimes.
- Agree.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Dauphin, Portage la Prairie, South Indian Lake, Snow Lake and The Pas.

- Where does the $2.50 for the stamp on the angling licence go?
- People want fish and wildlife but fencing costs are to be borne by cattle producers rather than the general public who want the fish and wildlife. Cattle people can't afford to do it themselves. It was suggested that this is somewhat offset. For example, the Lake Manitoba Fishermen's Association are doing hatcheries and are putting their own money into it.
- Trees in lake (debris) and water low - affects fishery and sediments spawning areas.
- More expensive stamp for commercial fishermen.
- Could Fish Enhancement Initiative dollars be used to buy out commercial fishermen?
- How do we carry this out?

SUGGESTED POLICY 1.4:

Instream structures such as dams, weirs and crossings shall be assessed to determine the need for the passage of fish and to be consistent with no net loss of productive capacity.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

1.4a Require review and approval before any new instream structure can be constructed on a river or stream of significance to fish resources.

1.4b Inform and educate those involved with instream structure construction of the requirements, value, and need for fish passage in streams and rivers.

1.4c Provide information and guidelines on where fish passage will be required and on fishway design.

1.4d Promote and support the development and testing of innovative fishway design.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 1.4

Agree - 98% **Neutral - 2%** **Disagree - 0%**

- Inform and educate those involved with instream structure construction of the requirements, value and need for fish passage in streams and rivers.
- Assessment should take place prior to construction of any projects.
- No.6 highway dam at Fairford is a disgrace. A proper fish ladder should be built. Fish cannot get back into Lake Manitoba unless they are salmon. This is up to the government not the fisherman to pay for. As it was the government that built the bridge and locks.
- Install fish ladder or pipe in dam on Whitemud River at Westbourne, Manitoba.
- None of the statements address removal of existing but illegal and / or unnecessary structures or adding of fish passage to existing structures. Both are needed.
- Only where practical, occasionally transportation needs or agriculture production may have to take precedence over fish habitat.

- The Churchill River and fish habitat has been significantly impacted by Saskatchewan Power and Manitoba Hydro dams and water regimes.
- Agree.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Dauphin, Portage la Prairie, South Indian Lake, Snow Lake and The Pas.

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- None of the statements address removal of existing but illegal and / or unnecessary structures or adding of fish passage to existing structures. Both are needed.
- Only where practical, occasionally transportation needs or agriculture production may have to take precedence over fish habitat.

- We have allowed our government to disturb the fish's habitat by diverting water flow and other sources like building roads across rivers also putting culverts in place of natural rivers.
- Use systems that do not impede the passage of fish to or from their spawning areas to their home.
- No net loss should be viewed in practical rather than bureaucratic terms.
- Especially Ducks Unlimited projects.
- Stream and creek to be clean for fish to spawn natural.
- In the north like Nelson River all dams should have fish ladders also Manitoba Hydro be held accountable for maintaining water levels during spawning season fall and spring.
- Although in some cases benefits resulting from activities impacting fish are vastly greater than the fish lost.
- Creeks that are not closed off from River "Saskatchewan" should be opened, no fish ladder at dams.
- Keep water level constant or close to a standard (construct passageways).
- Could cause opportunity for poaching.
- With all the drainage in the past 20 years, this aspect was overlooked in many cases. Natural spawn areas were ruined or damaged.
- Also waterways that have trees, etc. blocking waterways.
- Manitoba Hydro should be compelled to install fish ladders on all new and existing power dams and to restore the waterways to natural movement up or down waterways.
- This should have been in place before Hydro was allowed to build any structure. Now Hydro should be held responsible for fish ladders.
- Strongly suggest more control of weirs and the length of their use.
- A comprehensive environmental assessment of all aspects of each project must be conducted and reviewed prior to the approval process. Meaningful public input is required as part of the assessment process.
- The raising and lowering of the water in the lakes by mechanical use as stop logs causing great fluctuations of the water, speed of the water and the amount of sediment in the water. Caused by the control dams at Jessica Lake and White Lake. The permanent structures such as the North Cross Sailing Lake dam Mallard Falls dam and Betula Lake dams seem to work very well without the fluctuation of water.
- The Fairford Dam should be removed.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Gimli, Pine Dock, The Pas

- Upgrade and repair old fish passages to ensure that movement is a certainty.
- Agree in principle. Suggest re-engineering of Fairford Dam fish ladder.
- Communities should be consulted.
- Support all policies.
- Spawning beds lost. Better consideration needs to be given before areas are eradicated, e.g., dams.
- Dams, crossings should be assessed.
- In agreement.
- Removal of screens at culverts for better migration of the fish species or at dyke structures.
- The Province to monitor Ducks Unlimited as the majority public is aware Ducks Unlimited has been constructing water diversion all along the Saskatchewan River Delta.
- Agree with the application.
- Grand Rapids fish ladder at the dam. Releasing water from spillway kills / traumatizes fish that are carried over.
- Culverts at Moose Lake, screen in place blocks fish migration. Remove screens to re-establish fish stocks.
- Dykes control (forebay) need better management and communication: cooperate between communities and other holders.
- Ducks Unlimited impact on fish migration with water diversions.

- Ducks Unlimited control structures holds water, don't allow for fish movement, block accessibility to spawning areas.
- Policy has to read "existing blockages interfere with the sustainability of many fish populations and must be addressed".
- Species such as sturgeon get caught between dams.
- Water flows are controlled by the dams on the Saskatchewan River and water is many times kept unnecessarily low.
- Policy must deal with dams that have been built in the past must be dealt with and fish passage provided for.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Dauphin and Portage la Prairie.

- Fairford Dam - records show fishery has gone downhill since Fairford. Caught a few fish in Lake Winnipegosis last year but was a high water year. Fairford's always open.
- Crane River - crossing over the creek through hay land. During the spawning run, producers put temporary crossings with a culvert - fish were stranded. When they moved to bigger equipment, they took the old crossing out and put rock riffle across.
- Dams need to be kept to a minimum.

SUGGESTED POLICY 1.5:

Protection and wise use of riparian areas shall be promoted through education and provision of incentives and, where necessary, regulations.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

1.5a Identify its riparian prog[illegible] activities, management, buffer zone and use guidelines and determine the best methods, practices and organizational schemes which will ensure an effective and efficient coordinated approach to the protection and wise use of riparian areas.

1.5b Identify, appropriately designate and manage the use, development and protection of significant Crown and private riparian areas.

1.5c Provide information and promote awareness of the importance of riparian areas to fish, wildlife and water resources.

1.5d Assess and develop incentives for and partnerships with land owners that encourage appropriate land use practices in riparian areas.

1.5e Partner with conservation groups, local government, the Aboriginal community and other interested stakeholders to deliver riparian protection and other habitat protection programs.

1.5f Establish base line information and monitor and report on the status of significant riparian areas.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 1.5

Agree - 93% Neutral - 6% Disagree - 1%

- 1.5c. This is most important to protection of not only fish but soils and wildlife as well.
- What average person knows what this "wise use of riparian areas shall be promoted" means.
- Also the Pine Falls paper company should not be allowed to cut along the rivers (buffers) like they did at Sandy River. They cut just above a major spawning ground. This type of logging has to stop.
- Should have used a more common phrase than riparian (too scientific).
- Often good riparian practices, e.g., tree planting can be counterproductive if beavers plug the waterway.
- We must have strict policies to follow in order to protect this natural resource for the future.
- This greatly increases the spawning capabilities of streams.

- Ducks Unlimited control structures holds water, don't allow for fish movement, block accessibility to spawning areas.
- Policy has to read "existing blockages interfere with the sustainability of many fish populations and must be addressed".
- Species such as sturgeon get caught between dams.
- Water flows are controlled by the dams on the Saskatchewan River and water is many times kept unnecessarily low.
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- Dams need to be kept to a minimum.

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Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

1.5a Identify its riparian programs, activities, management, buffer zone and use guidelines and determine the best methods, practices and organizational schemes which will ensure an effective and efficient coordinated approach to the protection and wise use of riparian areas.

1.5b Identify, appropriately designate and manage the use, development and protection of significant Crown and private riparian areas.

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- Should have used a more common phrase than riparian (too scientific).
- Often good riparian practices, e.g., tree planting can be counterproductive if beavers plug the waterway.
- We must have strict policies to follow in order to protect this natural resource for the future.
- This greatly increases the spawning capabilities of streams.

- Positive education programs on the use of riparian areas would be more beneficial.
- Fancy words.
- Education is waste of time. Only fines will educate people.
- All waterways should be protected by law to prevent instream watering of cattle.
- Riparian zones have to be protected. 1st step in increasing water quality.
- Fencing out cattle and banning feeding on ice of tributaries would help.
- Don't fully understand question. Wording not clear.
- Don't understand question.
- Riparian areas are the lifeblood of the entire environment.
- This program has worked and should continue more in the future.
- Regulation when ignored.
- Regulations equal to all, native and non-native, 1 law for both.
- There seems to be no control on tree cutting in Interlake. Trees are torn out of - cut out of lake banks rivers ditches streams! -The clear cutting of trees should not be permitted anywhere anymore. Trees hold back and slow down dirty run-off water.
- As a cattle producer - incentives are the best-cheapest means to promote responsible stewardship of riparian areas.
- Greater emphasis should be placed on damages caused by livestock entering water bodies to drink and runoff from agricultural operations.
- Presently there are many guidelines in place for "riparian zones". Need to step back to eco-zone view to more adequately assess the impact on the riparian [zone].

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Gimli, Lac du Bonnet, Pine Dock, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- Agree with policy.
- Agree with direction.
- 1.5(c,d) Education of what and where riparian areas are is vital.
- Make information on riparian areas accessible.
- Shorelines - there are plenty of regulations in place already. Regulations should be monitored more closely.
- Incentives should be monetary on private lands
- New regulations for new livestock operations is a start but need to clean up existing operations.
- Grain farmers also trying to farm to shoreline
- Concerns about channelization, not leaving buffer zones along Creeks, trying to farm lake bottoms. E.g., Whitemouth Lake - farmed in the 1980's when water levels were low - should never have been farmed.
- Massive drainage affects the climate, disrupts water cycle.
- In agreement.
- Poor enforcement of existing regulations is prevalent.
- Should be no difference between agricultural, housing developments (city) and tree harvesting regarding riparian areas.
- Where cattle in high concentrations.
- Work with livestock associations in the province (MCPA); all must work together to benefit all sectors; more partnerships.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Pine Falls, South Indian Lake and Snow Lake.

- Sandy River - Pine Falls Paper Co. took out the buffer zone for a "project". Government or the paper company never consulted fishermen or trappers.
- Don't fight fires along shore and trees die and don't hold the soil causing increased erosion.
- Applications of pesticides. What's being done?
- Mentioned urban housing, cottage development, agriculture all have an effect on riparian areas.

SUGGESTED POLICY 1.6:

Within the context of no net loss of productive capacity, sturgeon habitat and populations shall be protected and maintained, and where practical and viable, degraded habitats and depressed populations shall be rehabilitated.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

1.6a Inventory sturgeon populations and habitats.

1.6b Select areas to be designated for the preservation of lake sturgeon habitat.

1.6c Control the harvest of sturgeon to protect and increase their population numbers.

1.6d Re-introduce (while protecting genetic integrity) and stock sturgeon into traditional sturgeon habitats.

1.6e Promote and encourage research into sturgeon populations, habitats and rehabilitation methods.

1.6f Promote public awareness of the status of sturgeon stocks and in the protection and rehabilitation and development of sturgeon habitats.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 1.6

Agree - 90% **Neutral - 9%** **Disagree - 2%**

- Over fishing by First Nations, commercial operators as well as greedy uncaring anglers are at fault.
- Control the harvest of sturgeon to protect and increase their population numbers.
- Should add retro-fitting of existing Winnipeg River dams and St. Andrews dam, at least, with fishways with large enough cells and enough depth to pass sturgeon effectively.
- Would like to catch a sturgeon and would release it.
- I believe that the sturgeon is slowly disappearing and this species should be protected.
- Concerned about priority of this issue and ideas / support from necessary partners.
- Aboriginal and Treaty should be not allowed to fish in river for sturgeon in the spring spawn run?
- More teeth in laws re / rivers need for ceremonial rites.
- Stop the Aboriginal peoples from blocking off rivers and streams with their nets so they say they need this fish for food. It's a crock. Food is so easy to get voucher. Food any kind of food.
- Lets get Travel Manitoba to remove sturgeon from the Master Anglers list. It is hard to imagine why anglers would be encouraged to fish for them.
- Stop Aboriginal black market fishing.
- Fines should be raised for those who fish / sell sturgeon.
- Walleye, sauger and pike habitat is much more important to the general public. With scant resources, no money should be wasted on this initiative. Let native revenue from poached pickerel sales finance this operation!

SUGGESTED POLICY 1.6:

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Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 1.6

[illegible]

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- Stocking of sturgeon at the Winnipeg River would be good!
- Could be answered in many ways.
- Don't understand question as there are 10 ways to answer question.
- This is another area where Aboriginal communities, groups should be more responsible for the rehabilitation of sturgeon.
- No one has a handle on sturgeon stocks in Manitoba. Proactive studies. Not after the fact.
- If this season is closed to sport anglers, why does Department of Natural Resources allow natives to net in the Winnipeg River?
- Just hope its not too late to rehabilitate.
- All harvest should be closed (i.e., treaty harvest and selling of sturgeon.)
- We are not acting fast enough to stop the population slide, i.e., Nelson River. We have poorly managed this species in the past and we still have a long way to go! 1.bc not working yet.
- With the sturgeon population being at risk, policies need to be put in place to ensure their survival. This must include introducing restrictions on Aboriginal sturgeon fishing to preserve the species.
- Laws of Canada have a double standard.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Gimli, Pine Dock and The Pas.

- Agree with policy.
- Suggestion of total elimination of fishing (address Aboriginal concerns) on and protection of spawning grounds could allow for open water fisheries (not just sturgeon).
- Support these policies.
- One of the best areas for sturgeon was in the Winnipeg River - Is it proposed that it will be rehabilitated.
- In agreement. Definitely control harvest
- Does this exclude all other species at risk (why key on sturgeon).
- Sturgeon fishery closure has been implemented on Saskatchewan River via The Pas area for the past five years.
- Policy already in place.
- Between Nipiwan and ABG dam: sturgeon held back at dams - provide fish ladders or transport around.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Norway House, Pine Dock, Thompson, Wabowden

- Sturgeon gone in area why bother.
- Sturgeon harvest needs to be controlled.
- Studies on sturgeon important that they be included.
- Domestic fishing big issue 50-60 sturgeon and off to catch another. Let them spawn.
- Answer - Education (must educate themselves.
- Sturgeon Board hasn't stopped it yet.
- No sturgeon there now.
- Sturgeon important historically and depletion not just status harvest.
- Hatchery would help replenish and benefit others too.
- Sturgeon - look toward future.
- Stop sturgeon fishing now required.
- Sturgeon Board (5 communities). Status of sturgeon. Communicating / educating to try and make a difference.

SUGGESTED POLICY 1.7:

Irreparable harm and adverse effects from the introduction or transfer of aquatic organisms shall be anticipated and prevented or mitigated.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

1.7a Prohibit the introduction or transfer of all aquatic organisms, unless otherwise approved.

1.7b Investigate the benefits of establishing an "Aquatics Introduction and Transfer Committee" whose purpose would be to:

a. review applications for the introduction or transfer of aquatic organisms into or within the Province of Manitoba and based upon a risk assessment recommend approval or denial of each application to the minister, and

b. establish through public, Aboriginal community and stakeholder consultations best provincial management practices to govern the planned importation, introduction and transfer of aquatic organisms for the purposes of:

- *i. stocking Manitoba waters,*
- *ii. commercial activity including the sale for human consumption, the hobby trade, lodge and outfitting operations and live bait fish operations,*
- *iii. recreational angling, and*
- *iv. research.*

1.7c Develop and implement programs and partnerships to increase awareness of the risks and adverse effects associated with the introduction, transfer and spread of undesirable aquatic organisms.

1.7d Establish partnerships and work with industry, interest groups, Aboriginal community and the public to establish measures to prevent adverse effects of accidental introductions or transfers of aquatic organisms.

1.7e Develop guidelines, practices and conditions to govern the responsibilities of authorized individuals, commercial enterprises and groups in spawn taking, rearing and stocking of species.

1.7f Assess activities in and outside Manitoba that could introduce aquatic organisms via inter-basin transfer and oppose such activities where appropriate.

1.7g Investigate other means of introduction or transfer of aquatic organisms, e.g., bait bucket transfer and introduction of diseased fish and the associated risk to fish and habitat and develop actions to prevent adverse effects.

1.7h Partner and work cooperatively with other jurisdictions to identify risks, adverse effects and measures to prevent the cross border introduction, transfer and spread of harmful aquatic organisms.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 1.7

Agree - 95% Neutral - 5% Disagree - 0%

- Prohibit the introduction or transfer of all aquatic organisms unless otherwise approved.
- Hasn't Lake Manitoba's fish stocks added carp, bullheads, anything else?, over the years that were never here before?
- Because of our position downstream from 3 provinces and 3 states, any effective introduction policy must include agreements with these jurisdictions.
- No comment.
- Is this doable.
- Constant vigilance required.
- Care must be taken that aquatic organisms from other rivershed areas are not introduced into areas where they would be a detriment.
- Stop the Aboriginal peoples from blocking off rivers and streams with their nets so they say they need this fish for food. It's a crock. Food is so easy to get voucher. Food any kind of food.
- Good job on zebra mussels - not so good on purple loosestrife.
- All fishing of sturgeon including the treaty harvest should stop for a time.
- You should delete sturgeon from Master Angler's listing.
- Non native species can have a negative effect on native species plus the environment.
- Keep the Portage Diversion shut. There should have been an environmental study done before this was allowed.
- Awareness of how certain organisms affect the water and the best way to treat them so if it happens something can be done to prevent harm to the ecosystem.
- It doesn't hurt to try, but try to work on an ecosystem basis rather than political borders.
- Irreparable harm and adverse effects must be proven and not assumed.
- Any program that can help in this area should be planned and discussed.
- In this day and age in Manitoba we have introduced species to the wild that are not appreciated so what's the concern?
- Have seen some pretty dirty boats dropped into Lake Manitoba. There should be more boat scrub stations on #six (6) highway!
- Some of these are transferred by birds but boats do also.
- Special attention is needed to stop the indiscriminate spread of wild rice in the north. This program is putting tremendous biological strain on our watersheds.
- Agree but realistically may prove impossible to prevent.
- Water bomber used in fighting forest fires may transfer aquatic organisms between bodies of water. Further study may be needed to seek manageable ways to control this.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Gimli, Lac du Bonnet, Pine Dock and The Pas.

- How do you control the transfer of all aquatic organisms?
- Agree in principle. Stress education and self-regulation.
- Management of live bait issue needs to be handled as a separate policy, not included with policy 1.7.
- Wild rice harvesting is a problem, cleanup after harvesting the rice is not even being followed through. Suggest a method of cleaning up the area and maybe paying the harvester to clean up the area. Oxygen level seems to be affected as well as the fish stocks.
- Support all policies.
- There is currently a variety of rules, regulations or guidelines in effect that if implemented and enforced would meet the necessary requirements.
- P.S. more guidelines, practices and conditions do not need to be implemented. This would only cause confusing duplication of what we presently have. We should simplify the definition of our actions unlike the presentation we are currently attending.
- The application of policies will go on, based on the interpretation of those who are not in the know.

- Bait industry get a lot of blame for "bait bucket" transfer of exotics when other ways more likely, e.g., waterbombers.
- Should not allow individuals to harvest their own bait - can't enforce "illegal" movement.
- Bait fishermen very regulated, strict guidelines - individuals do whatever they want.
- Department of Natural Resources is proposing to shut down leech areas when not so long ago we had no restrictions on Americans bringing in leeches from all over.
- Individuals harvesting their own bait are not educated about the damage they could be doing. Restrict them rather than bait fishermen who know what they're doing.
- Have signage at popular fishing areas saying it is illegal to transport fish.
- Even enforcement staff interpret things differently and have different opinions - due to complicated regulations.
- Natural Resource Officers can take a 2 week course on how to carry a gun - why not a course on fisheries enforcement?
- In agreement.
- Fisheries concerns should be dealt with on a watershed basis rather than provincial boundaries.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Brandon, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Lac du Bonnet, Norway House, Pine Falls, Portage la Prairie and Snow Lake.

- Zebra mussels really cleaned up the water in good walleye area "back home" (Ontario). Walleye getting smaller and disappearing.
- Lake Manitoba: Diversion - never caught rock bass before. Diversion is open and runs at least a month - man-made changes affecting Lake Manitoba.
- Carp - some creeks full of carp - can "walk across them". They eat other fish eggs. Crane River used to take a lot. Carp don't come in there anymore. Carp price pretty low. Carp are smart - on a calm day, they will find their way around the nets. Lake Manitoba - fairly good production.
- Talk about species that were introduced down the Red River [rainbow smelt]
- Wildrice in Bays → declining fish.
- Concerns about fish reproduction, pollution of lakes and streams, need for public education, fish handling, illegal transport of fish and people stocking their own bodies of water.
- Concerns with people transporting their own bait. Need more enforcement rather than more regulations.
- As a representative of the Live Bait Fishermen and Dealer Association, would like to see more attention focused on introduction of exotic species on other things besides the bait bucket. Waterfowl transport water and eggs. Just look at the fire situation. Water bombers transport more water than the bait bucket does.
- Rainbow smelt impacts are unknown and we should be studying / assessing impacts (good or bad).
- Carp becoming more prevalent in north basin Lake Winnipeg. What are the problems-habitat issues.
- Where did white bass come from?
- White bass in the pickerel spawning grounds - "worse than pelicans." Bass spawn in Manigotagan after pickerel. Thinks they eat pickerel eggs and fry. Where do smallmouth bass come from? May have been stocked.
- Rainbow smelt: Rumor that guy from Berens River said he was told that someone said if Garrison didn't go through, he was going to release them - was training them to eat pickerel eggs. [Smelt now in the Nelson River.]
- There is an expanded or expanding cormorant population on Lake Manitoba, as there is on Lake Winnipegosis. What can we do?
- Wild rice concerns? Destroys habitat, decaying rice causes anoxic condition during winter. Areas where wild rice shouldn't have been planted. Was introduced by Branch.
- Believes government is doing what they can: not allowing wild rice in water bodies where there are fisheries or recreational value.
- Suggestion: where it is in undesirable places charge progressively higher fee for wild rice licences impacting fish and recreational - like a wild oat, seeds do not germinate same time. Some seeds can be dormant for up to 40 years.

Policy Area 2. Allocation and Supply

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 1:

To manage the supply and allocation of fish resources on a sustainable basis while optimizing environmental, social and economic benefits and opportunities for Manitobans and minimizing resource user conflicts.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 1

- Markets and local processing must be found for rough fish such as suckers and tulibee found in abundance in Manitoba's northern waters.
- Aboriginal people should only be able to practice their treaty rights on certain times of any season.
- Can you really stop the Aboriginals from raping the system? No penalties in place as "they have their rights!" I will be sure to let you know this as well!
- Actually, this sounds great, but, in a real world, I think it is not attainable. For one thing there will always be conflicts among user groups.
- This will limit big incorporate fishing industries to deplete our resource.
- This is an oxy-moron in my view.
- Some of the lakes are being fished out. There may be a need to reduce or close some seasons. Also for commercial fishing net sizes need to be more regulated - no small mesh nets.
- The concept of "living off the interest" while preserving the "principle" seems very efficient.
- I would rate this higher except I'm not sure if government can make the optimization judgement.
- No fishing for anyone in spring spawn when fish is running in the spring that means all people?
- Outfitters and lodges should be policed more in northern Manitoba and the Aboriginals.
- No fish should be harvested by commercial or angler till they have spawned.
- Manitobans can gain more from tourism / sport fishing with catch and release than commercial fishing, and gain more in spin-off benefits.
- Will be a real interesting balancing act.
- If we are to closely look at 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, they are in conflict. The disaster on Lake Winnipegosis and the collapse of the fishery there shows there is no political will to enforce the rules at present.
- Ensure there is an adequate supply for all (to a limit).
- Already being done.
- Is already being done.
- Motherhood statement.
- This should be done from input from all resource users and should not be biased in any way. Some facts are not always made to all of the public.
- Economic benefits seem to be that major player in deciding allocations.
- Aboriginal people's fishing rights should be examined and curtailed somewhat, as their livelihood and food source does not depend on wildlife or fish, as it did 100 or 50 yr. ago!
- It would be a joy if the angler and the commercial fisherman could agree on how to improve the fish "situation" as it is today!
- Commercial fishermen - fishing guides and fishing lodges and Aboriginals should have a major voice in this area.
- Define "resource user conflicts".

Policy Area 2.
Allocation and Supply

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To manage the supply and allocation of fish resources on a sustainable basis while optimizing environmental, social and economic benefits and opportunities for Manitobans and minimizing resource user conflicts.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 1

Agree - 92% Neutral - 6% Disagree - 2%

- Markets and local processing must be found for rough fish such as suckers and tulibee found in abundance in Manitoba's northern waters.
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- Commercial fishermen - fishing guides and fishing lodges and Aboriginals should have a major voice in this area.
- Define "resource user conflicts".

- Fish should be put back in the waters they came from.
- Resources (Department) require more people in the field, are understaffed, underpaid. Northern and remote financial compensation.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Dauphin, Flin Flon, Swan River and Winnipeg.

- Group ranges from commercial fishermen to conservationists all with the interest in promoting and enhancing our local fish stocks, resources, and fishing opportunities.
- Get the people from within the region involved on a more frequent basis with fish regulations.
- Rights of the fishing community - local people.
- Educate the kids in school about catch and release, garbage issue (keep the environment clean).
- Education is the key to fishing and the fish population.
- Commercial fishing is only a problem when the smaller lakes are commercial fished (over-fished).
- Restock and clean up the lakes to help reintroduce the feed for the fish populations.
- If we keep leaving the big stock in the lake re: catch and release isn't always the right solution: they seem to be killing off the smaller stock.
- Water control level puts the fish at risk.
- Dam introduction controls spawning and makes fish stock fluctuate.
- Aboriginal people should be equal to the non-Aboriginal fisherman, same regulations applied.
- Aqua-culture programs might help to restock and maybe save the fish stock such as pickerel and rainbow trout.
- When the fish are spawning they shouldn't be harmed or fished, regardless of who is fishing.
- Introduce more species to the fishing population.
- Stop netting in rivers.
- Subsistence fishing in rivers should only be allowed by a licence system, issued by Department of Natural Resources whereby they can establish the amounts of fish harvested by the need of each applicant.
- If the allocations of each group of people is a pie, allocations of each group be scaled down instead of one group losing his whole piece, before others lose any of their piece.
- With rights to net fish comes the responsibility to manage the operation of netting. By use of tag numbers and records of numbers of fish harvested to help government collect data on treaty harvest for conservation of fish species.
- Allocation and supply can only be determined by hard numbers given by each group of users to government. More dollars spent on the gathering of harvest data for managing a proportional amount to each group, with no one losing their total share, before another group is impacted at all.
- Regulations need to be enforced and be done fairly.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comment was recorded at the workshop in Dauphin.

- Everyone can benefit from the resource. The key issue is proper management.

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.1: ***The sustainability of fish populations shall be the first priority in the allocation of fish stocks.***

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

2.1a Ensure regulations:

- *a. protect the spawning stock by:*
  - *i. establishing, for each designated [listed commercial or other identified] water body, the mesh size for the commercial and domestic harvest of fish, and*
  - *ii. establishing the allowable take home size of fish for domestic, cultural, subsistence, recreational and research purposes, as required;*
- *b. protect fish spawning by prohibiting, limiting or regulating harvest and disturbance during the spawning season, as necessary;*
- *c. prohibit fish harvesting where the sustainability of fish populations are threatened; and*
- *d. establish, for each designated [listed commercial or other identified] water body, the sustainable fish harvest level.*

2.1b Establish penalties which encourage compliance with regulations.

2.1c Monitor the status of fish stocks on a regular basis to assist in the determination of annual sustainable allowable harvest levels by:

- *a. conducting stock monitoring activities and data analyses according to contemporary scientific criteria;*
- *b. establishing partnerships and increasing monitoring activities with fishermen and community assistance;*
- *c. ensuring catch and effort data is made available from all fishermen and fish agents in a timely and effective fashion and format;*
- *d. pursuing scientific research priorities relating to sustainability of the resources, supply and availability including science agreements with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.*

2.1d Establish partnerships and undertake and encourage research to improve the models and techniques for establishing sustainable population and harvest levels.

2.1e Provide information to the public, Aboriginal community, fishermen and other stakeholders respecting established allocation priorities.

2.1f Regularly monitor the status of harvested species, indicator species and designated species at risk to identify threats to sustainability and take actions to prevent, eliminate or mitigate those threats.

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Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.1

Agree - 96% Neutral - 2% Disagree - 2%

- A closer watch must be kept on Aboriginals whose right to fish for their own use has too often become a commercial business.
- The use of small nets in pickerel areas is wrong and should be corrected. The mesh size of nets should be seriously looked at. The small pickerel that is being taken out of the south end of Lake Winnipeg is a disgrace. These are immature fish that will never have a chance to reproduce. Speaking to the representatives from Alberta they cannot see how the government could allow three (3) inch mesh nets to be used in a pickerel area. If something is not done about this then all our writing and regulations are in vain.
- Aboriginal people take a large portion of fish during spawn season.
- Proposal #1. Trophy fish in Red River. - Harvesting trophy fish should apply to all ages as a family can take as many as they want if the kids are under 16. Have them buy a licence and sign it, or the guardian has to claim it and then no more for the rest of the year. "Rape" of fish stock happens regularly with youth taking them and then there are a decrease supply. This should apply to Red River walleye at Pinefalls area.
- Agree with 2.1ab, an effort should be made to leave fish alone during spawning season by both commercial fishermen and anglers.
- The fishing industry and government of Manitoba need only to look east or west to see what mismanagement of this resource will do. I believe fishing should be reduced or suspended on Lake Manitoba. At the very least the 3 inch fishery should be stopped immediately. We have seen stocks are very slow to recover in the east coast area. The recreational fisherman would like to see some steps taken to ensure fish stocks are in fact in good shape.
- But, remember that you need to preserve aquatic ecosystems to preserve fish stocks.
- When conflicting opinions crop up on specific fish management issues (and they will!), always lean toward the preservation of the resource rather than the economic well-being of resource user.
- I believe if there is no consensus on the population of fish stocks this will have a negative effect to the future of fishing.
- The idea of "out of bounds" spawning areas for all is a very efficient use of the population of fish.
- The problem with this policy is that it links a long term feature (sustainability) to a short term action (allocation).
- Very little done particular at Rocky Lake by Wanless. Only lip service no money, no Staff are reasons given.
- Would it be possible to stop the fishing completely during the spawning runs, everyone including treaty.
- I don't think it's fair to take too many fish from a good habitat to reward another area who abused their stocks...In our area we have a lot of natives fishing with nets in the spawning areas...Killing fish with a belly full of eggs is the most irresponsible way of managing our resources...In our area we can buy pickerel fillets all spring long caught and sold by natives in the spring spawning grounds...The law enforcement agencies should be doing more to stop this legal poaching! With more undercover agents trying to stop this sort of thing with jail terms and high fines for the Natives, and very high fines for the fish buyers and loss of hunting and fishing rights for 1 year. Our spawning areas around our area are getting very depleted of adult fish.
- Shut down small mesh nets on Lake Manitoba.
- But it also depends on the species.
- By all parties.
- Aboriginal treaty and constitutional obligations should be looked at, as all peoples have rights!
- It would be nice if your policy took into consideration the fish stock utilized by the Aboriginal community - especially the taking of spawning fish!
- I'm also very concerned about the practice known as "smuggling", in which fish, usually walleye, are illegally taken, filleted, and sold to seafood stores or restaurants or individuals. Fish are usually taken when they are most vulnerable, during the spring spawning runs...Something has to be done to protect fish during this critical time, (spawning), perhaps the banning of food fishing during spawning, or banning of nets in spawning areas, mouths of creeks and rivers, and in creeks and rivers during spawning.

- Fishes Meadow Portage - believes in 3" mesh - raises income - some people fish "wrongly" - get into pickerel areas - give the rest a bad name.
- Perch coming back this year.
- Few years ago, caught perch in September - came back with small mesh but perch gone already.
- Test netting of fish to find out where they move - ones they caught at ?? moved 10-12 miles - caught at Crane River.
- Has been a conservationist all his life. Lake Dauphin commercial fishing issue: There's about 30 commercial fishing licences with a quota of 750 lbs. per licence = 22,500 lbs. of walleye. At $2.00 per lb., that's about $15,000 revenue. This can't be their livelihood - beer money at best.
- Option: Give 5 serious fishermen a quota of 1,000 lbs. for a lake quota of 5,000 lbs., or give 2 fishermen 2,000 lb. quotas - leave an extra 17,500 lbs. of walleye for tourism.
- Option: leave the 12,500 lbs. in total for anglers. This makes sense as the value of Lake Dauphin lies with tourism and recreation on the lake, not commercial fishing.
- Lake Dauphin is second to none for angling in Canada - even surpasses Lake of the Prairies.
- We should increase limits (lake trout, stocked trout) to disperse fishing effort.
- Sustainability for future generations.
- Last 10-15 years fishery depleting.
- Saskatchewan fishermen coming in and we should shut it down two weeks earlier.
- Feel CJOB statements were too cut and dried re: problems in fishery.
- Want Quota Entitlements bought out not unilaterally taken.
- Lake Winnipegosis so must be doing something right.
- Lesson of fisheries is users should act before government.
- Concerned that pickerel pockets cleaning out pre-spawn in whole north basin.
- Increase mesh size benefit fishery.
- Impact assessment on lake. Exotics, Hydro and user ... and affects on communities.
- Commercial fishing #1 priority especially in communities where commercial fishing is the only employment.
- Opening dates - June 1st earlier openings - declining sauger stocks.
- Enforcement is often political - non-enforcement. Fishermen need to be compensated if quotas are reduced.
- Whitefish fleet - 10,000 lbs. Sauger fishermen should have their whitefish quotas increased.
- Protect spawning fish. Opening dates - June 1 whole lake balanced out was good re: FS yrs trade.
- Early openings problem re: high harvest spawners.
- Quota Entitlements winter to spring transfer increased harvest in opening = not part of trade of fishing spawning saugers.
- One standard opening date June 1 "all seemed to balance out".
- 2.1(a,b) All groups should follow regulations e.g. as they relate to spring spawning.
- 2.1(c) Need more monitoring
- 2.1(d,e,f) Need research to do prediction.
- Fish die off via unknown parasite of concern.
- Specific concern is irresponsible recreational fishing.
- 1st priority to people not animals (i.e., Conservation).
- First priority in "use" is treaty / status.
- Small mesh size → sustainable issue, lowering mesh size dangerous. All lakes are different though. <4 1/4" for perch necessary. Important - commercial fishermen to be conservationists too.
- "Spawning" - angling prior to spawning a problem. Wants extended closure to protect spawning (in lake but fish at mouth).
- Aboriginal fishing with friends taking too much.
- Over fishing "90 pickerel" creel.

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.2:

Aboriginal treaty and constitutional obligations shall be the second priority in the allocation of fish stocks.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

2.2a *Prohibit recreational harvesting and commercial fishing on water bodies, where the entire allowable harvest is required to meet Aboriginal treaty and constitutional domestic harvest requirements.*

2.2b *Establish partnerships and work cooperatively with the Aboriginal community to establish reasonable and sustainable community and individual domestic and cultural harvest levels and possession limits.*

2.2c *Restrict all harvesting including Aboriginal harvest of fish stocks where the sustainability of the fish resource is threatened.*

2.2d *Where practical, maintain or increase the supply of fish resources through habitat enhancement activities.*

2.2e *Provide for the exchange of information with the Aboriginal community on such topics as:*

  a. rights and obligations of aboriginal and non-aboriginal people,

  b. sustainability of the fish resource,

  c. harvest rates,

  d. best management and harvest practices.

2.2f *Encourage the use of alternative fish species to meet domestic requirements.*

2.2g *Prepare in consultation and partnership with Aboriginal communities management plans to address treaty and constitutional domestic fish harvesting including species specific management plans.*

2.2h *Allow Aboriginal domestic fishing of stocked trout waters, but limit the harvest to "recreational fishing methods only".*

2.2i *Establish partnerships and work with the Aboriginal community to identify needs and provide sturgeon for their unique cultural, traditional and religious uses.*

2.2j *Establish partnerships to assist Aboriginal communities in educating their members in understanding of traditional approaches and sustainable fishing practices.*

2.2k *Establish mechanisms such as management agreements with Aboriginal communities to ensure local fish resources optimize benefits to the community [e.g., co-management agreements].*

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.2:

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Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.2

Agree - 57% **Neutral - 19%** **Disagree - 23%**

- Some Aboriginal people fish spawning ground in the spring and they sell their catch.
- Present policies / regulations are unworkable if extended into the indefinite future. A new conservation policy of equality must eventually be designed / implemented.
- Aboriginal treaty rights to fish should be protected against legislation.
- A closer watch must be kept on Aboriginals whose right to fish for their own use has too often become a commercial business.
- Only on critical times of the year.
- Aboriginal treaty rights are fine when Aboriginals are living in areas where food is limited due to isolation. When living in areas where food is abundant these rights should be limited.
- Natives and whites should be considered equal (but I guess you guys have heard that before).
- We are all Canadians and preference should no longer be placed on a treaty card, colour of skin, race or creed!
- Close fishing until they are done spawning. This should be for everyone.
- There should be equality in all races when it comes to sustaining future fish stocks. In Canada everyone is created equal (my point of view). Why should one person be made to save the fish stock if the next person is able to deplete that same fish stock.
- I don't think anyone in our industry should be given special rights because of their race.
- 2.2(d) What about habitat protection and restoration of degraded habitat? 2.2(f) Not likely to be accepted.
- Aboriginal should not be treated any differently than anyone else.
- Treaty obligations must be secondary to population sustainability.
- All Aboriginals should follow fishing regulations and have to purchase a licence, any excess catch should be deducted from their welfare cheques...Natives should be treated as equal. Should follow rules and regulations, should follow same fishing seasons, should follow regular fishing limits, should be requested to purchase a licence. No race should be allowed to be exempt from the rules and regulations that everyone else is expected to follow.
- Aboriginal treaty rights must be honoured and up held by our Federal Government; this is one of the most depended upon resource for the Aboriginal people of the world.
- Providing the Supreme Court lets you. First priority should be recreational fishery. A high quality sport fishery will contribute the most economically and provide healthy recreational opportunities for all facets of society including Aboriginals.
- Commercial fishermen should be given the same priority as Aboriginals. Because fishermen also depend on the resource to sustain them.
- Commercial fishing in flowing streams such as rivers should not be allowed by anyone as this greatly reduces the spawning stocks.
- Native Aboriginal should be treated as residents. Controls should be put on all their harvests.
- Concerned with netting of small recreational fisheries by status natives for personal / business purposes on walleye / trout waters with little or no natural propagation.
- Food requirements ok. Commercial harvesting is not okay!
- 2.2(a) Prohibit recreational harvesting and commercial fishing only for certain required timelines when the population of fish for sustainable development falls below the level that is required for Aboriginal domestic harvest requirements. 2.2(h) Limit the harvest by all to "recreational fishing methods only" when the population of the fish falls below sustainable development level.
- As First Nation people known as first people of our land. We have always maintained and practised our traditional way of life. By using what we only need to sustain us. We always had this practise for generations, and we will strive towards the next generation to come.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.2

[redacted]

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- We are all Canadians and preference should no longer be placed on a treaty card, colour of skin, race or creed!
- Close fishing until they are done spawning. This should be for everyone.
- There should be equality in all races when it comes to sustaining future fish stocks. In Canada everyone is created equal (my point of view). Why should one person be made to save the fish stock if the next person is able to deplete that same fish stock.
- I don't think anyone in our industry should be given special rights because of their race.
- 2.2(d) What about habitat protection and restoration of degraded habitat? 2.2(f) Not likely to be accepted.
- Aboriginal should not be treated any differently than anyone else.
- Treaty obligations must be secondary to population sustainability.
- All Aboriginals should follow fishing regulations and have to purchase a licence, any excess catch should be deducted from their welfare cheques...Natives should be treated as equal. Should follow rules and regulations, should follow same fishing seasons, should follow regular fishing limits, should be requested to purchase a licence. No race should be allowed to be exempt from the rules and regulations that everyone else is expected to follow.
- Aboriginal treaty rights must be honoured and up held by our Federal Government; this is one of the most depended upon resource for the Aboriginal people of the world.
- Providing the Supreme Court lets you. First priority should be recreational fishery. A high quality sport fishery will contribute the most economically and provide healthy recreational opportunities for all facets of society including Aboriginals.
- Commercial fishermen should be given the same priority as Aboriginals. Because fishermen also depend on the resource to sustain them.
- Commercial fishing in flowing streams such as rivers should not be allowed by anyone as this greatly reduces the spawning stocks.
- Native Aboriginal should be treated as residents. Controls should be put on all their harvests.
- Concerned with netting of small recreational fisheries by status natives for personal / business purposes on walleye / trout waters with little or no natural propagation.
- Food requirements ok. Commercial harvesting is not okay!
- 2.2(a) Prohibit recreational harvesting and commercial fishing only for certain required timelines when the population of fish for sustainable development falls below the level that is required for Aboriginal domestic harvest requirements. 2.2(h) Limit the harvest by all to "recreational fishing methods only" when the population of the fish falls below sustainable development level.
- As First Nation people known as first people of our land. We have always maintained and practised our traditional way of life. By using what we only need to sustain us. We always had this practise for generations, and we will strive towards the next generation to come.

- I personally think that they should be able to catch enough fish for selves from 1 or 2 nets in the off seasons not 7 or 8 like some are doing around here (bragging in August they cut 78 lbs. of fillets that one day).
- Aboriginal treaty's should have closed seasons maybe the fish stocks will come back and stop them from setting net and blocking rivers and streams off so fish can't migrate and spawn.
- Fish stock should not be allocated by race.
- What's the point of treaty rights if there's nothing to fish.
- Race has no bearing on allocation of fish stock.
- Second only to the sustainability of fish populations and stock.
- The Aboriginals who set nets to catch spawning fish are our worst problems to deal with, and must be dealt with to save our fish stocks.
- Treaty rights must be continued due to their rights but should be closely monitored, in order to prevent abuse.
- Provided that this is not a lead-in for loss of treaty rights.
- Should be no domestic fishing of stocked trout waters. 2.2.A. Why should Aboriginal people have control of an entire lake? It is Canada's land and water.
- There are very few Aboriginals whom are dependent on fish stocks.
- Present carte-blanc rights for Aboriginals cannot continue with the present lack of enforcement. Without change to these so called "inherent rights" no proper management of the fish stocks can be accomplished.
- Only if the operation is for personal consumption and not sale.
- Fish stocks should be for all Canadians.
- Fish stocks should be for all Canadians.
- Realizing, of course, that this issue may be out of the hands of anyone [who] would make changes to the statement. All Canadians are equal.
- I agree with this based on first hand knowledge on how some Aboriginal people abuse their treaty rights. As soon as they police themselves and are more responsible and accountable, I would maybe consider changing my stand.
- These treaties should be revisited as there is abuse of take this natural resource.
- All people's have rights. Fish enhancement shall have priority, next people shall all be treated alike.
- If natives don't do their part, why should the white community have to do 10 times as much work and dollars, if we can't enjoy the fishing now.
- Why should Aboriginal people be allowed to use barbed hooks in Manitoba. When they signed treaties years ago they had no superfluous fishing equipment like they have now. Fish stocks should be the number one priority.
- Aboriginal treaty rights are all well and good but if allowed to continue there will be no fish for them or anyone else. I think they should have some restraints like everyone else.
- Aboriginals are to be classed as Manitobans, and have no reason to be in the hierarchy of priorities.
- More education, management involvement and co-management with Aboriginal people needs to take place. This is happening but more effort is required.
- All rights should be equal in the allocation of fish stocks.
- See comments under Objective #2, i.e., Natives netting on a commercial scale is not justified by a constitutional right to historical, cultural ties, or supplying for band consumption.
- This should only be allowed if they use their ancestors fishing tools and at only certain times of year. Spring fishing closed.
- I disagree with this section. If the sturgeon population is too low to maintain a viable population, they must be protected regardless of cultural, religious, or traditional uses of the fish stocks.
- Fish stock should not be removed from one lake to another.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Gimli, Portage la Prairie, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- Restrict mesh size and yardage for Aboriginal fishing and not allow them to fish in a spawning area during the spawn season.
- Poorly worded - some confusion as to true treaty rights and other rights and privileges of natives - Policy vs. law!
- At time treaties written, recreational angling was non-existent and now exceeds native fishing in terms of the numbers of people harvesting this resource.
- Laws are outdated as back then could not foresee the pressure currently on this resource, although accepted that natives have rights and access to fishing (traditionally) although nowhere written that this is to be priority over all other users, as written in the treaty of that time.
- Need better understanding and legalities as to the need for resource allocations and responsibilities - which is policy and which is law.
- If province is to grant rights to Aboriginals, or any other public sector, then it should be up to the provincial government to enforce compliance.
- Aboriginal people should be better educated on fishing and the results of over fishing.
- Netting stocked lakes by the Aboriginal people should not be allowed.
- Over fishing is not helping the cause of anyone who fishes in the province or the country.
- 2.2(a) To open of a statement should be for local obligations only. Aboriginal rights need to be clarified.
- 2.2(b) To open of a statement should be for local obligations only. Aboriginal rights need to be clarified.
- 2.2(c) Concur.
- 2.2(d) Concur.
- 2.2(e) Yes.
- 2.2(f) Yes, especially anglers and sports fishermen.
- 2.2(g) Yes.
- 2.2(h) They have enough special privileges now.
- 2.2(i) Not necessary.
- 2.2(j) Should be able to educate their own people.
- 2.2(k) Because fish are not restricted to community not necessary. Belong to all Manitobans not communities.
- Good.
- Aboriginal treaty and constitutional obligations should be first priority and second priority should be conservation.
- Aboriginal or not, if major spawning area, nobody should be allowed to fish during spawning.
- This should be revisited as native livelihoods have been changed. Times are changing! Is this a necessary activity?
- Find a middle ground.
- Consultation and education to reduce abuse.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Dauphin, Norway House, Portage la Prairie, Thompson and Wabowden.

- One of the problems is if you cut back on commercial fishing, that's okay, but native fishing also can't be tolerated. They take out thousands of pounds of walleye when they are going up to spawn. How many fish are being taken out that would otherwise go back into the lake? Can't expect to eat them all in two days.
- First Nations - fishing in the creeks - bring some of the fish back to our land so we can have fish for ourselves. Fish is a natural part of our balanced diet. Bring back the fish so we don't have to fish elsewhere. They would be very surprised if the other person saw "thousands of pounds" being removed - they may have rights but they can't find the fish. It's best if we all can work together.
- Important to ensure Treaty Rights priority.
- 2.2 Good.
- 2.2 (f) Alternate fish markets.
- Land base - development and self reliance.
- 2.2(e) Education re: Aboriginal rights would help (not just a ticket in court). Proactive.

- 2.2(b) Co-management - mostly administrative.
- Good process but want more meaningful outputs
- First priority in "use" is treaty / status.
- 2.2(c) Cormorant Board did conservation closure on Pickerel Creek.
- Status rights - need 90 fish?! Not needed can't eat 90 fish and not distributed in community.
- Allocation of lakes - Northern Flood Agreement country issue: can't get access to waters cause communities turn them down.
- Treaty Land Entitlement / Northern Flood Agreement - how based, who controls.
- Suggest meeting with Cross Lake to discuss fishing near Wabowden.
- Allocation Northern Flood Agreement. Not taken away but grandfathered out.
- Winter fishing on some recreational fished lakes. Utik Lake: thin out whitefish and get them to grow.

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.3:

Fish stocks shall be allocated in the following general order of priority provided the sustainability of the resource is assured and treaty and constitutional obligations are met: 1. recreational fishing, 2. commercial net and tourism related fish harvesting, and requests for subsistence harvesting shall be considered on a case by case basis.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

2.3a Establish criteria for subsistence users and assess effects on fish stocks.

2.3b Evaluate all new or additional harvest requests and allocate the resources based on the established order of priority.

2.3c Issue general fishing licences, with conditions, for demonstrated cases of need for subsistence use of fish stocks.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.3

[illegible]

- Example: Swan Creek hatchery. The fish should be put back in not put into other lakes for recreation use.
- 1) commercial net, 2) recreational fishing 3) subsistence harvesting, 4) tourism related fishing
- Commercial fishing must be first. This country was built and developed around commercial fishing and it must not be side-tracked for sport fishing - people's livelihood depends on it.
- One problem I see with the catch and release program is that anglers may seriously injure the fish removing the hook.
- I feel commercial fishing is more important because we know for a fact what stocks are in the lake and anglers have no idea. I personally would like to see the sport fishers do less blaming of the commercial fishers every time the fish don't bite. I have seen anglers kill thousands of fish while the commercial fishers caught very few. I would also like to see sport fishers spend some money on the restocking like the commercial fishers do.

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Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.3

Agree - 62% Neutral - 11% Disagree - 28%

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- Winter fishing on some recreational fished lakes. Utik Lake: thin out whitefish and get them to grow.
- Winter Recreational fishing on commercial lakes nets destroyed or lifted.
- Live bait - Calico Bass - invasion species.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Gimli, Norway House, Pine Dock, Portage la Prairie, Snow Lake, The Pas, Thompson and Wabowden.

- A man's pleasure should not supersede a man's livelihood.
- Commercial fishing represent 82% of population of Manitoba by making Crown resource available to those who don't angle therefore commercial should be above recreational fishing.
- Hooks in fish what impacts.
- Object to commercial net and tourism together.
- Commercial should be prioritised above recreational.
- Value traditional livelihood.
- Lake Winnipeg lends itself to commercial not recreational and therefore should be commercial priority.
- South basin fishermen in winter fish channel area yet hold back channel in spring (fairness issue).
- Allocate between commercial users.
- Off season employment opportunities (e.g., Resource Officer).
- Whitefish fleet catching 10,000 lbs. Pickerel / sauger. Supposed to be whitefish fleet!
- <10,000 lb. - would just mean hit channel harder in fall / winter
- Get rid of quota out of South - "over quota'd" - lost quota in Channel (via Quota Entitlement) and thinks there should be compensation.
- Buy quota from south move it to channel.
- Good.
- Wekusko Lake - tourism is important. As lodge operator employs more people than commercial fishermen. Has heard about compensation for commercial fishermen. Only four on Wekusko Lake so suggests a way out - pay them out. What is town benefiting from most. Believes lake cannot sustain multi-use.
- Cormorant issue on Lake Winnipeg / Cedar Lake / Winnipegosis.
- Implement mullet fishery.
- Commercial fishermen is affected - want to work - farther down on allocation and priority.
- Partnership difficult given livelihood priority decreasing.
- Honest angler ok.
- 1/2 commercial allocation taken for recreation. Where: Setting When: 1980?
- Precedence for commercial in communities where critical. E.g., Wabowden.
- Anglers, fishing along with Status Indians, should avoid spawning season. For example, some anglers fish with the Status Indians during the spawning season and then claim the catch belongs to the Status Indians.
- Anglers should not be allowed on commercial fished lakes (because vice versa is so).

M121

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SUGGESTED POLICY 2.4:

An efficient commercial net fishing management and allocation system that ensures the sustainability of the resource shall be established.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

2.4a *Allocate and manage commercial net fishing using scientifically determined sustainable allowable commercial net harvest limits that ensure the sustainability of fish populations.*

2.4b *Adopt a commercial fishing allocation strategy that emphasizes, in the face of scientific uncertainty, allocations at the lowest level of the allowable harvest range to ensure the harvestable surplus is not exceeded.*

2.4c *Provide for the establishment of an independent panel, to whom the minister may refer any matter respecting the sustainability of fish resources. As deemed appropriate by the minister, the panel would consult with the public, the Aboriginal community, scientific community and stakeholders and report to the minister on its findings and recommendations.*

2.4d *Develop and maintain advisory bodies on commercially fished lakes where appropriate.*

2.4e *Work towards the development of a harvest strategy and monitoring program of sufficient magnitude to allow for the implementation of an annual harvest allocation.*

2.4f *Protect against and address any commercial over harvesting by investigating and establishing mechanisms which may be used to:*

  a. finance unusual management actions (e.g., buy quotas when fishery ebbs and sell back as fishery recovers),

  b. enhance monitoring activities,

  c. provide for third party, scientific review of other commercial fish management issues.

2.4g *Establish partnerships and encourage and aid fishermen in assuming more direct involvement for management activities, and strengthen their role in making management decisions, where appropriate.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.4

[illegible]

- Regulating departments of government must consider interests of commercial fishermen and begin to accept input from them.
- Already have licence and / or lake quota's in effect and are monitored by Natural Resources. 2.4(c) waste of money to have panel set up. 2.4(g) commercial fishermen already have meeting and discussions without regarding fish management of our lakes.
- It has already been established through the quota system.
- Sure this is good but commercial fishermen haven't destroyed the lake. Everyone contributed.
- About time! They sell the fish privately anyway!
- Should include recreational fishing.
- We have seen what scientific certainties have done for the east coast. Lake Winnipeg's production goes in cycles and there are signs that we will be entering an up cycle.
- Stop 3 inch nets on south basin of Lake Manitoba.
- 2.4 a and b. To get the data for scientifically determined sustainable harvests, you would have to re-build the Fisheries Branch to the point where it could do the work.
- Present policy is adequate. Petty politicians in the various areas create the problems.
- I believe this has to be protected at all times against the bigger fishing industries, e.g., ocean fishing is having a big effect on their fishing industry.
- There needs to be developed a better market for the rough fish species, mullet and carp.
- This is ongoing in north Manitoba.

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Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.4

Agreed - 90% **Neutral - 6%** **Disagree - 4%**

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- There needs to be developed a better market for the rough fish species, mullet and carp.
- This in ongoing in north Manitoba.

- That commercial fisheries be expected to pay for aggressive stocking.
- It already does if we would administer it more fully - quota ownership.
- That is already in place for commercial fishing.
- This is the way fishing is run now.
- That is what we have in place now.
- This should be supplemented with a generous re-stocking program delivered and managed by commercial fishermen.
- Over commercial net fishing can be detrimental on overall fish stocks.
- Presently, lack of enforcement and total disregard for sound scientific data and recommendations has ruined Lake Winnipegosis. Until this is rectified, more rules will do no good at all.
- Give commercial fishermen a chance to increase stocks via hatcheries, habitat improvements, etc.
- Already have that.
- Already have that.
- Taking into account Policy 2.3 (above).
- In all cases the health of the body of water should be the concern be commercial activity be allowed.
- More control on poaching etc. (unmarked nets).
- The number of licenses should be very closely watched and regulated. Temporary licences could be looked at.
- Should be a combined industry / natural resource decision.
- Must be sustainable, not the raping of the fish stocks that goes on now and in the past in Lake Manitoba and Winnipegosis.
- Net fishing is important but keep them out of our recreational lakes.
- In order to reduce the number of commercial licences, the government should buy licences that are no longer active due to retirement, death, or fishermen leaving the industry to work.
- We believe that the commercial should withdraw for the winter season as there seems to be a consistent over harvest. Larger net sizes.
- Should use commercial trap net fishing.
- Commercial fishing and tourism lodge operators do not mix. I have been both.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Gimli, Portage la Prairie, The Pas, Thompson and Winnipeg.

- Agree.
- Why not better market rough fish and create season for rough fish harvesting?
- Perhaps market as "Manitoba Salmon" (mullet or carp)
- 2.4(a) eliminate words scientifically determined.
- 2.4(b) No.
- 2.4(c) No.
- 2.4(d) No.
- 2.4(e) No.
- 2.4(f) No.
- 2.4(e) Agree.
- 2.4(a) "scientifically determined" ?
- 2.4(a) Need more monitors out with the commercial fishermen.
- 2.4(b) This may develop problems with commercial fishermen as they may not be able to achieve enough harvest to support themselves.
- 2.4(c) Good.
- 2.4(d) Good.
- 2.4(e) Good.
- 2.4(f) Money should stay in the resource.
- Note: Vary mesh sizes to assist in the management of fisheries.
- The implementation of mesh site for gill nets has already been in existence for years, including quotas. What more new regulations can apply or be implemented.
- Agree: use of small mesh can destroy fish populations.
- All parties should be involved.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Norway House and Portage la Prairie.

- 2.4(a)Need more monitoring / manpower. The problem with being conservative in recommending quotas is that there could be problems with fishermen's profits. All money (licence fees or something like that) should be maintained in its resource. Use a variety of mesh sizes - stick to one or two sizes rather than a whole bunch.
- 2.4(f) Put money back to the resource.
- Starting dates shouldn't be cast in stone and should be flexible.
- Mesh size: 3 3/4 → 4 1/4", should discontinue use of.
- Recommendation to go to larger mesh size
- Large fish don't bounce off smaller mesh.
- Politicians should stay out of allocation decisions.
- Why are whitefish numbers and size smaller.
- Fall fisheries / roe fisheries; smaller mesh size; bushing(suggested reasons
- Suggestion that lakes need rest, get "fished out". 5 years Lake Winnipeg fishery will be gone.
- Moratorium on Lake Winnipeg fishing.
- How old to spawn re: mesh size. 3 3/4" → cleaning out fish
- Concerned that pickerel pockets cleaning out pre-spawn in whole north basin.
- Increase mesh size benefit fishery.
- Resting the fishery.

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.5:

Existing legal commitments and access and tenure rights to fish resources shall be protected.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

2.5a *Through its licensing system for commercial and tourism fisheries ensure long term access to the fish resources by:*

- *a. honouring legitimate commercial and tourism access fishing rights*
- *b. recognizing established commercial fishermen as having transferable rights in access to the fish resource; that is, a right of access to fishing opportunity, not ownership of an amount of fish for individuals in "good standing",*
- *c. providing for the on-going renewal of existing commercial net fishing licences,*
- *d. providing tenure to fishermen who presently have secured legitimate resource access rights,*
- *e. allowing qualified new entrants to "buy into" the fishery to reduce pressure for more licences or quota,*
- *f. recognizing market demands for remote and isolated wilderness tourism experience.*

2.5b *Ensure regulations:*

- *a. outline the conditions under which a licence or right may be taken away,*
- *b. ensure any reallocation of access and other rights to other commercial users only occurs if the tenured user is not in "good standing",*
- *c. provide for the appeal of decisions which affect legal access rights and tenure,*
- *d. clarify and define "in good standing" as it relates to commercial fishing.*

2.5c *Require fair compensation to affected individuals if fish resources are reallocated, except in cases for the protection of fish population sustainability and meeting treaty and constitutional obligations.*

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Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.5

[redacted]

- This would depend on a more specific definition of this phrase.
- These regulations are already in place. 2.5b - regulations already in place.
- Some existing legals etc. could be changed to better protect fish resources. E.g., No one should be able to sell fish. It is an incentive to black market sales and over fishing.
- I think some of our commercial fisheries are neither economically viable nor biologically sustainable (on remote, northern lakes, for example).
- Same as above, i.e., I believe this has to be protected at all times against the bigger fishing industries, e.g., ocean fishing is having a big effedct on their fishing industry.
- Only if performance conditions are met - after they are established.
- Policies 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 mean the same thing.
- I dislike special rights. I think it is wrong to cater to a preferred group.
- Does this mean they can never be revoked, or only if appropriate compensation is provided?
- A licence to fish is just that. It is not a "right" and should be denied and cancelled when the resource is in jeopardy, present situation on Winnipegosis.
- Don't understand question.
- Don't understand question. Wording not clear.
- Not familiar with existing legal rights, as I am sure very few Manitobans are.
- Treaty rights of spring fishing should be looked at now.
- With common sense.
- Access and tenure rights, if not exercised, should be forfeited. I think the number of licences should be reduced on Lake Manitoba (commercial), this can be done by the government buying licences from fishermen leaving the industry.
- 2.5(c) The fisher does not own stock. He may be given opportunity to fish some other lake but not paid after he has depleted his own "farm".
- Commitments to fishermen, including Aboriginal ones, should not be protected at the expense of fish stock protection.
- Board has no experience with this.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Gimli, Pine Dock, Portage la Prairie and The Pas.

- Agree.
- Most commercial fishing is a sideline hobby, and not overly well paying, and therefore not a livelihood. Reducing the number of fishermen may therefore not affect people's livelihood.
- Other concern is illegal trade of non-recorded catch beyond the quota limit.
- 2.5(aa) Separate commercial and tourism allocations.
- 2.5(ab) Ok.
- 2.5(ac) Ok.
- 2.5(ad) Ok.
- 2.5(ae) Ok. Omit text after fishery; "to reduce pressure for more licences or quota".
- 2.5(af) ?
- 2.5(ba) Yes
- 2.5(bb) Disagree.
- 2.5(bc) Yes.
- 2.5(bd) Yes.
- 2.5(c) Eliminate text after reallocated: "except in cases for the protection of fish population sustainability and meeting treaty and constitutional obligations".
- 2.5(aa) "and" change to commercial / tourism
- 2.5 (c) "except in cases for the protection of fish population sustainability"?
- Commercial fishing should be compensated if quota reduced.
- 2.5(c) Should be compensated regardless.

- Good.
- Can't afford to fish lakes - don't go anymore - province reallocates to lodge operator and Aboriginal people are displaced.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in South Indian Lake, Snow Lake, Thompson and Wabowden.

- Downgrading whitefish classification makes investment difference. Uncertainty similar to issue of tenure.
- Selling commercial fishing licence (varies from lake to lake). North of 53rd, can't sell licences to anyone he wants - fishermen does not own quota.
- What he sells is equipment and access right - careful because we hold allocation and rights.
- Sport fishing lodge operator purchased allocation rights so he could have an outcamp.
- Family / Lineage based tenure is important. -trapping.
- Northern Flood Agreement: fishermen sold under duress, would lose licence anyways. Domestic use on allocated commercial fishing lakes issue...fish it down. Claim some lakes but don't use them.
- Suggested meeting with Cross Lake to discuss fishing near Wabowden.

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.6:

The commercial net fishing allocation system shall emphasize and work towards sustainable economic returns to the fishing community, industry and province.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

2.6a *Give preference to commercial fishing proposals (including commercial net, angling based, bait fishing, and fish farming) that offer the greatest local economic benefits.*

2.6b *Continue to limit entry to economic net fishing operations such that fish stocks are shared in a fashion which allows fishermen to earn reasonable wages.*

2.6c *Formalize existing quota entitlement systems in regulation under The Fisheries Act.*

2.6d *Develop and implement quota entitlement systems and regulations for economic fisheries not currently managed under quota entitlement.*

2.6e *Ensure new harvest opportunities do not compromise the viability of the industry or sustainability of fish stocks.*

2.6f *Continue to enforce regulations prohibiting the illegal sale, or movement of fish.*

2.6g *Continue to implement the Fish Transportation Loadslip for all persons as an authorizing mechanism for the transportation of fish and to help discriminate between legitimate "domestic fish" and fish destined for illegal sale.*

2.6h *Continue to support northern commercial net fishing through special programs.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.5

Agree - 70% **Neutral - 18%** **Disagree - 12%**

- This would depend on a more specific definition of this phrase.
- These regulations are already in place. 2.5b - regulations already in place.
- Some existing legals etc. could be changed to better protect fish resources. E.g., No one should be able to sell fish. It is an incentive to black market sales and over fishing.
- I think some of our commercial fisheries are neither economically viable nor biologically sustainable (on remote, northern lakes, for example).
- Same as above, i.e., I believe this has to be protected at all times against the bigger fishing industries, e.g., ocean fishing is having a big effedct on their fishing industry.
- Only if performance conditions are met - after they are established.
- Policies 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 mean the same thing.
- I dislike special rights. I think it is wrong to cater to a preferred group.
- Does this mean they can never be revoked, or only if appropriate compensation is provided?
- A licence to fish is just that. It is not a "right" and should be denied and cancelled when the resource is in jeopardy, present situation on Winnipegosis.
- Don't understand question.
- Don't understand question. Wording not clear.
- Not familiar with existing legal rights, as I am sure very few Manitobans are.
- Treaty rights of spring fishing should be looked at now.
- With common sense.
- Access and tenure rights, if not exercised, should be forfeited. I think the number of licences should be reduced on Lake Manitoba (commercial), this can be done by the government buying licences from fishermen leaving the industry.
- 2.5(c) The fisher does not own stock. He may be given opportunity to fish some other lake but not paid after he has depleted his own "farm".
- Commitments to fishermen, including Aboriginal ones, should not be protected at the expense of fish stock protection.
- Board has no experience with this.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Gimli, Pine Dock, Portage la Prairie and The Pas.

- Agree.
- Most commercial fishing is a sideline hobby, and not overly well paying, and therefore not a livelihood. Reducing the number of fishermen may therefore not affect people's livelihood.
- Other concern is illegal trade of non-recorded catch beyond the quota limit.
- 2.5(aa) Separate commercial and tourism allocations.
- 2.5(ab) Ok.
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- 2.5(ae) Ok. Omit text after fishery; "to reduce pressure for more licences or quota".
- 2.5(af) ?
- 2.5(ba) Yes
- 2.5(bb) Disagree.
- 2.5(bc) Yes.
- 2.5(bd) Yes.
- 2.5(c) Eliminate text after reallocated: "except in cases for the protection of fish population sustainability and meeting treaty and constitutional obligations".
- 2.5(aa) "and" change to commercial / tourism
- 2.5 (c) "except in cases for the protection of fish population sustainability"?
- Commercial fishing should be compensated if quota reduced.
- 2.5(c) Should be compensated regardless.

- Good.
- Can't afford to fish lakes - don't go anymore - province reallocates to lodge operator and Aboriginal people are displaced.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in South Indian Lake, Snow Lake, Thompson and Wabowden.

- Downgrading whitefish classification makes investment difference. Uncertainty similar to issue of tenure.
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- What he sells is equipment and access right - careful because we hold allocation and rights.
- Sport fishing lodge operator purchased allocation rights so he could have an outcamp.
- Family / Lineage based tenure is important. -trapping.
- Northern Flood Agreement: fishermen sold under duress, would lose licence anyways. Domestic use on allocated commercial fishing lakes issue...fish it down. Claim some lakes but don't use them.
- Suggested meeting with Cross Lake to discuss fishing near Wabowden.

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Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

2.6a Give preference to commercial fishing proposals (including commercial net, angling based, bait fishing, and fish farming) that offer the greatest local economic benefits.

2.6b Continue to limit entry to economic net fishing operations such that fish stocks are shared in a fashion which allows fishermen to earn reasonable wages.

2.6c Formalize existing quota entitlement systems in regulation under The Fisheries Act.

2.6d Develop and implement quota entitlement systems and regulations for economic fisheries not currently managed under quota entitlement.

2.6e Ensure new harvest opportunities do not compromise the viability of the industry or sustainability of fish stocks.

2.6f Continue to enforce regulations prohibiting the illegal sale, or movement of fish.

2.6g Continue to implement the Fish Transportation Loadslip for all persons as an authorizing mechanism for the transportation of fish and to help discriminate between legitimate "domestic fish" and fish destined for illegal sale.

2.6h Continue to support northern commercial net fishing through special programs.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.6

Agree - 84% **Neutral - 8%** **Disagree - 8%**

- If there are to be serious cuts to commercial quotas there should be some compensation to the licence holder.
- Sounds good - however these applications, a-h, are already in effect.
- It already does all that.
- Why industry and province?
- Commercial fishing proposals should not be given preference on lakes and rivers that have high recreational fishing observations.
- Treaty rights should be honoured and royalties allocated to treaty First Nations.
- 2.6(h) This amounts to using the commercial fishery as a way to distribute welfare. Economically viable, sustainable fisheries should be promoted. However, both of these qualifiers ought to be met.
- But must be secondary to the sustainability of the fish stocks.
- In order to keep up with other economic growths we have to keep in pace.
- If commercial quota is last priority, we cannot guarantee sustainable fishery from economic perspective. Did we learn from east coast cod fishery?
- I think it should / must be profitable to the fisher - if not none of the rest will occur.
- When it comes to industry and other big corporations those should be carefully and thoroughly studied, towards their negative impacts, which is publicly known.
- We as fishermen have fish hatchery on the lake now.
- In Aboriginal communities where locals are the only fishermen they should be able to choose between the capitalistic or socialistic manner, i.e., - a few vs. many fishermen.
- This is the way commercial fishing is run now.
- As it is now.
- The province should not look at making a profit at commercial fisherman's expense, but should work closely to assist in a resource capacity.
- Ticked off "strongly agree" but stated "do not support 2.6h or 2.7c". This is the present policy, but it is not being enforced due to the lack of political will of the provincial government. This must change.
- Economic returns must not take precedent or be considered when dealing with fish sustainability, in commercial or sport angling.
- In efforts for reasonable wages Lake Winnipegosis has gone the way of the Do-do bird.
- The 3" mesh fishing experiment should be discontinued.
- The commercial net fishing system will only work if the small mesh nets are not used.
- We feel that there should be cutbacks in the contracts on Lake Manitoba or it is going to end up like Lake Winnipegosis.
- Lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba and Winnipegosis are poor examples of co-operation - or pollution control - especially Lake Winnipeg.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Gimli, Pine Dock and Thompson.

- Agree.
- 2.6(a) No don't agree.
- 2.6(b) Who decides what is a reasonable wage.
- 2.6(c) Already have it.
- 2.6(d) Yes.
- 2.6(e) Yes.
- 2.6(f) Yes.
- 2.6(g) For all persons.
- 2.6(h) Yes.
- Increase fines for poaching.
- Enforcement is political.
- CO's cannot enforce so turns back.
- Enforcement should concentrate on bigger crimes.
- 2.6(a) How do you value these different uses?
- Economic valuations can be complicated by a variety of influences (FFMC).
- 2.6(b) Demographics may already be taking care of this.

- Poor $ returns have kept people from entering.
- There's a need for limiting / controlling angling pressure. Possible solution is not allowing angling anywhere - designating areas for commercial only. Monitoring an issue.
- Anglers only buy 1 licence, commercial fishermen have to buy one for each lake.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Flin Flon and Snow Lake.

- Cormorants and commercial fishing. Cormorants - taking over seagull islands.
- Could Fish Enhancement Initiative dollars be used to buy out commercial fishermen? If one was bought out do the other 3 increase their quotas? No.

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.7:

The commercial net fishing allocation system shall accommodate commercial community operations where appropriate.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government

2.7a *Allocate fish stocks to community fishing operations where:*

  - *a. existing tenured fishermen are prepared to participate in such a community operation;*
  - *b. the community fishing operation has the support of the community.*

2.7b *Establish partnerships and work with communities to control harvest and access to these fish stocks which will enable a greater number of fishermen to fish within the established annual sustainable harvest limit.*

2.7c *Continue to support northern commercial net fishing operations through special programs.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.7

Agree - 71% Neutral - 23% Disagree - 6%

- Should keep net sizes at their proper size.
- Lake depletion has more to do with greedy anglers - who eat one catch on the lake, take one limit home and store it away and then go back out and catch the 3rd one, all on the same day.
- Don't understand what you mean by commercial community operations. Don't believe it would work as a community project.
- There should be no community owned fish quotas.
- At $205. per month and northern store prices, those on social allowances require all the options available for survival.
- Again, I have serious reservations about commercial harvest of northern lakes on both economic and biological grounds. I think commercial harvest is the least appropriate way to use these resources.
- This will allow the small communities a fare price and operations costs throughout the province.
- There will be too many fishers in one area.
- Where existing licence holder is not doing an appropriate job of managing the resource, others should be able to enter the field.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.6

[redacted]

- If there are to be serious cuts to commercial quotas there should be some compensation to the licence holder.
- Sounds good - however these applications, a-h, are already in effect.
- It already does all that.
- Why industry and province?
- Commercial fishing proposals should not be given preference on lakes and rivers that have high recreational fishing observations.
- Treaty rights should be honoured and royalties allocated to treaty First Nations.
- 2.6(h) This amounts to using the commercial fishery as a way to distribute welfare. Economically viable, sustainable fisheries should be promoted. However, both of these qualifiers ought to be met.
- But must be secondary to the sustainability of the fish stocks.
- In order to keep up with other economic growths we have to keep in pace.
- If commercial quota is last priority, we cannot guarantee sustainable fishery from economic perspective. Did we learn from east coast cod fishery?
- I think it should / must be profitable to the fisher - if not none of the rest will occur.
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- We as fishermen have fish hatchery on the lake now.
- In Aboriginal communities where locals are the only fishermen they should be able to choose between the capitalistic or socialistic manner, i.e., - a few vs. many fishermen.
- This is the way commercial fishing is run now.
- As it is now.
- The province should not look at making a profit at commercial fisherman's expense, but should work closely to assist in a resource capacity.
- Ticked off "strongly agree" but stated "do not support 2.6h or 2.7c". This is the present policy, but it is not being enforced due to the lack of political will of the provincial government. This must change.
- Economic returns must not take precedent or be considered when dealing with fish sustainability, in commercial or sport angling.
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- Lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba and Winnipegosis are poor examples of co-operation - or pollution control - especially Lake Winnipeg.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Gimli, Pine Dock and Thompson.

- Agree.
- 2.6(a) No don't agree.
- 2.6(b) Who decides what is a reasonable wage.
- 2.6(c) Already have it.
- 2.6(d) Yes.
- 2.6(e) Yes.
- 2.6(f) Yes.
- 2.6(g) For all persons.
- 2.6(h) Yes.
- Increase fines for poaching.
- Enforcement is political.
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- Enforcement should concentrate on bigger crimes.
- 2.6(a) How do you value these different uses?
- Economic valuations can be complicated by a variety of influences (FFMC).
- 2.6(b) Demographics may already be taking care of this.

- Poor $ returns have kept people from entering.
- There's a need for limiting / controlling angling pressure. Possible solution is not allowing angling anywhere - designating areas for commercial only. Monitoring an issue.
- Anglers only buy 1 licence, commercial fishermen have to buy one for each lake.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Flin Flon and Snow Lake.

- Cormorants and commercial fishing. Cormorants - taking over seagull islands.
- Could Fish Enhancement Initiative dollars be used to buy out commercial fishermen? If one was bought out do the other 3 increase their quotas? No.

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.7

The commercial net fishing allocation system shall accommodate commercial community operations where appropriate.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government

2.7a Allocate fish stocks to community fishing operations where:

a. existing tenured fishermen are prepared to participate in such a community operation;

b. the community fishing operation has the support of the community.

2.7b Establish partnerships and work with communities to control harvest and access to these fish stocks which will enable a greater number of fishermen to fish within the established annual sustainable harvest limit.

2.7c Continue to support northern commercial net fishing operations through special programs.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.7

- Should keep net sizes at their proper size.
- Lake depletion has more to do with greedy anglers - who eat one catch on the lake, take one limit home and store it away and then go back out and catch the 3rd one, all on the same day.
- Don't understand what you mean by commercial community operations. Don't believe it would work as a community project.
- There should be no community owned fish quotas.
- At $205. per month and northern store prices, those on social allowances require all the options available for survival.
- Again, I have serious reservations about commercial harvest of northern lakes on both economic and biological grounds. I think commercial harvest is the least appropriate way to use these resources.
- This will allow the small communities a fare price and operations costs throughout the province.
- There will be too many fishers in one area.
- Where existing licence holder is not doing an appropriate job of managing the resource, others should be able to enter the field.

- Unless fish stocks won't sustain that activity.
- Don't understand what is being proposed.
- Again proactive studies.
- They should be more closely monitored.
- Example: If a native community wants to create jobs by exploiting the spring sucker and carp run.
- Regulations should be very clear to keep the community operation strictly commercial and not be allowed to continue, expand or augment any other program.
- Only if regulated so fish stock can sustain this.
- Board has no experience or expertise.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Gimli, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- Doesn't apply to our area.
- 2.7(a) Already happening.
- 2.7(b) Yes.
- 2.7(c) Yes.
- Can't afford to fish lakes - don't go anymore - province reallocates to lodge operator and Aboriginal people are displaced.
- As long as it doesn't destroy the resource.

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.8:

Priority shall be given to maintaining recreational angling opportunities by limiting recreational harvesting of fish to ensure the sustainability of the resource.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

2.8a *Regularly establish recreational angling harvest limits.*

2.8b *Provide resident recreational fishermen with the right to angle for fish on all Crown water bodies; this right being limited to one of opportunity, not necessarily an allowable harvest of fish.*

2.8c *Prescribe where non-residents are able to angle through a licence system.*

2.8d *Maintain and support conservation oriented recreational angling programs, such as those featuring selective harvest techniques like:*

- *"high quality management creel limits",*
- *"catch and release",*
- *"barbless hooks" and*
- *"size limits" to ensure critical components of fish populations have sufficient protection and to ensure that harvest is not excessive.*

2.8e *Maintain its recreational-fishing, public consultation process.*

2.8f *Develop guidelines and protocols to ensure the use of live bait does not adversely affect the fish resource.*

2.8g *Encourage the use of techniques to prevent winter kill of important recreational angling water bodies.*

2.8h *Allow salvage fish harvesting to avoid the aesthetic impacts and environmental clean up associated with winter kill situations.*

2.8i *Continue to monitor the possible effects of lead weight on the environment and take appropriate action.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.8

- In Lake Manitoba the recreational fisherman isn't hurting it. It is the small mesh nets, not the 3 3/4" mesh.
- Commercial quota should not be increased when recreation limit is decreased.
- At $205 per month and northern store prices, those on social allowances require all the options available for survival.
- 2.8(f) Outlaw use of live fish (spread of exotic species is the problem). Overall-again, don't forget the importance of habitat protection and, where needed, restoration.
- Only in areas where commercial fishing is not viable.
- This should be taken further because the anglers are allowed to fish anywhere in the spawning grounds of fish and the rivers.
- We want to catch lots of fish - action not fish for food.
- The use of registered guides for fishing with non-Canadian tourists.
- Priority shall be given to commercial net fishing.
- I disagree because I sense a suggestion of further reduced creel limits which are not necessary for sustainability.
- Limiting of harvesting can only be effective if sufficient enforcement is present. My experience has been that enforcement is sadly lacking especially in ice fishing situations.
- Commercial fishermen are regulated by size of mesh and number of nets. Therefore commercial fisher has to take all fishes he catches, whereas an angler one type of fish if he choose to take and size.
- Recreational angling should be monitored very closely so as there is no abuse of fish, especially in Aboriginal communities (Please look at comment on Policy 2.3, i.e., Areas should be set aside for recreational fishing just as areas should be set aside for tourist fishing.
- Over angling on the Red River should be watched more closely.
- If present logging roads were left open after logging easily accessible lake would not be over fished as to the degree they are now. The same could be said of hunting.
- More work should be done on population surveys so an informed decision can be made on limiting harvests and decisions to create a fish enhancement program.
- More enforcement work will be required to insure recreational angling opportunities continue.
- Make more lakes catch and release. Enforce tougher laws. Impound vehicles.
- If there are not enough fish to sustain a harvest, don't issue a license.
- I don't know much about the allocation of the fish resource or who currently has first priority but it should be the population that dictates the limits even if the lake / or river has to be completely restricted until there is an adequate supply.
- Requires enforcement and public education.
- A fine line. There are other ways to maintain angling opportunities; priorities should include limiting commercial harvesting, habitat revitalization, treaty harvest and increasing stocking programs.
- If all other users are doing their part okay, but I feel recreational fishermen are easier to enforce than commercial or Aboriginal fishermen.
- The recreational fisher person is highly regulated to how many or what time of the year to fish to ensure a sustainable resource.
- Licence fees are more than adequate, considering limits are always being reduced.
- The limits have already been cut back however the commercial fishermen can clean the lake out with their small mesh nets. Let's address that problem first!
- Yes we must have limits on catch we take home and size of fish taken to insure spawning stock.
- Daily limits should be reduced to one fish, (I don't know anyone who eats more than one fish per day).
- Only if all other users group have appropriate regulation enforced also.
- Would only work if the total population were controlled.

- Unless fish stocks won't sustain that activity.
- Don't understand what is being proposed.
- Again proactive studies.
- They should be more closely monitored.
- Example: If a native community wants to create jobs by exploiting the spring sucker and carp run.
- Regulations should be very clear to keep the community operation strictly commercial and not be allowed to continue, expand or augment any other program.
- Only if regulated so fish stock can sustain this.
- Board has no experience or expertise.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Gimli, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- Doesn't apply to our area.
- 2.7(a) Already happening.
- 2.7(b) Yes.
- 2.7(c) Yes.
- Can't afford to fish lakes - don't go anymore - province reallocates to lodge operator and Aboriginal people are displaced.
- As long as it doesn't destroy the resource.

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2.8c Prescribe where non-residents are able to angle through a licence system.

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2.8h Allow salvage fish harvesting to avoid the aesthetic impacts and environmental clean up associated with winter kill situations.

2.8i Continue to monitor the possible effects of lead weight on the environment and take appropriate action.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.8

Agree - 82% Neutral - 8% Disagree - 10%

- In Lake Manitoba the recreational fisherman isn't hurting it. It is the small mesh nets, not the 3 3/4" mesh.
- Commercial quota should not be increased when recreation limit is decreased.
- At $205 per month and northern store prices, those on social allowances require all the options available for survival.
- 2.8(f) Outlaw use of live fish (spread of exotic species is the problem). Overall-again, don't forget the importance of habitat protection and, where needed, restoration.
- Only in areas where commercial fishing is not viable.
- This should be taken further because the anglers are allowed to fish anywhere in the spawning grounds of fish and the rivers.
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- More work should be done on population surveys so an informed decision can be made on limiting harvests and decisions to create a fish enhancement program.
- More enforcement work will be required to insure recreational angling opportunities continue.
- Make more lakes catch and release. Enforce tougher laws. Impound vehicles.
- If there are not enough fish to sustain a harvest, don't issue a license.
- I don't know much about the allocation of the fish resource or who currently has first priority but it should be the population that dictates the limits even if the lake / or river has to be completely restricted until there is an adequate supply.
- Requires enforcement and public education.
- A fine line. There are other ways to maintain angling opportunities; priorities should include limiting commercial harvesting, habitat revitalization, treaty harvest and increasing stocking programs.
- If all other users are doing their part okay, but I feel recreational fishermen are easier to enforce than commercial or Aboriginal fishermen.
- The recreational fisher person is highly regulated to how many or what time of the year to fish to ensure a sustainable resource.
- Licence fees are more than adequate, considering limits are always being reduced.
- The limits have already been cut back however the commercial fishermen can clean the lake out with their small mesh nets. Let's address that problem first!
- Yes we must have limits on catch we take home and size of fish taken to insure spawning stock.
- Daily limits should be reduced to one fish, (I don't know anyone who eats more than one fish per day).
- Only if all other users group have appropriate regulation enforced also.
- Would only work if the total population were controlled.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Gimli and Winnipeg.

- Neutral - limits ok.
- All agree, don't know why slot limit not implemented on more lakes.
- Also minimum size limit has to be considered in more areas.
- 2.8(a) Yes.
- 2.8(b) Yes.
- 2.8(c) Yes.
- 2.8(d) No catch and release.
- 2.8(e) Yes.
- 2.8(f) Yes.
- 2.8(g) Yes.
- 2.8(h) Yes.
- 2.8(i) Stupid.
- 2.8(d) No catch and release.
- 2.8(i) "lead weight", stupid?
- Agree.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Portage la Prairie, Thompson and Wabowden.

- The conservation licence is only half a limit. There are lots of different regulations and you better have your book with you. Regarding slot limits, the participant felt they were too variable. There should be one that generally applies.
- Catch and release versus recreational angling for consumption. More roads increase impacts.
- Catch / release less consumptive therefore more sustainable with economic opportunities.
- 2.8(d) Catch and release not good.

SUGGESTED POLICY 2.9:

Stocking programs shall be considered and implemented where fish populations can be successfully increased.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

2.9a Evaluate the performance of Manitoba's stocking program in terms of economic viability, meeting resource enhancement and management objectives and effects on stocks.

2.9b Review and revise existing fish stocking guidelines to direct activities where they are most likely to provide supply enhancement or rehabilitation benefits.

2.9c Consider experimental stocking programs where significant benefits may result.

2.9d Establish partnerships to provide required training for all privately operated fish hatchery and stocking programs in Crown waters, to ensure fish stocks are not adversely affected.

2.9e Discourage stocking where it is unlikely to provide stock enhancement benefits.

2.9f Develop guidelines, practices and conditions to govern the responsibilities of authorized individuals, commercial enterprises and groups in spawn taking, rearing and stocking of species.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.9

Agree - 96% Neutral - 3% Disagree - 2%

- Again part of Snow Lake's fish population diminishing was caused by harvesting pickerel spawn and taking it out of our lakes.
- Stocking programs already in place by government and Lake Manitoba Commercial Fishermen's Assoc. Policies already in place.
- On different parts of the bigger lakes.
- We also need to stock our small lakes and ponds with trout and other species to take the pressure off the walleye.
- Stocking is never a successful substitute for sound management and habitat protection. Stocking over the long term can reduce stock productivity by 1) decreasing fitness and 2) destabilizing the aquatic community.
- Preferable to improve natural breeding areas but this would provide a back up tool where natural spawning grounds are degraded.
- Depending on what species there could be an over population in some areas and species of fish can over crowd other species this will effect the quality of fish.
- Will this affect stocking where there is no natural propagation, i.e., Stocked trout waters.
- Would like to see more fish hatcheries to support small lakes from anglers as well as for commercial fishing. Close monitoring of spawning rivers and creeks for pollution.
- Consider stocking programs on many of Manitoba's larger lakes where significant benefits may result.
- Fishermen need help to stock the lakes.
- You should ensure that where you stock doesn't get over fished.
- Manitoba Hydro should be supplying fish for stock after all they use the water to generate power and pay no tax. So they should be stocking. Install fish ladders on all streams they use.
- Only where there is assurance the optimum stocks can then be retained, i.e., no "put and take" operations with natural occurring species in natural water bodies.
- I think this should be focused on native fishes.
- Delta Marsh area.
- More $'s should be allocated to this idea so rearing ponds and mobile hatchery programs are created.
- Use of Ducks Unlimited marshes to raise fish and release in the fall.
- Put and take fisheries especially trout and commercial walleye.
- I don't support the introduction of species not native to a particular body of water.
- The department should continue with the hatcheries on Lake Manitoba and also discontinue the use of small mesh nets 3". As a long time commercial fisherman on Lake Manitoba I have seen the detrimental effect these nets have had on the lake.
- Stocking programs are vital. It has given people more opportunities and takes pressure off some areas.
- As long as the right fish are put into the rights lakes.
- Stocking programs should be increased and this should have taken pace long ago.
- Stocking lakes will certainly help the sports fisherman and take some pressure off lakes that are now being fished.
- Trout stocking program should be increased. Limits reduced. More education towards catch and release. Increase licence and stamp fees.
- The stocking program has worked well and hope it can always be implemented.
- Again use of local interest groups for investigative field work, implementation (labour) and monitoring would stretch the government dollar. Increase stocking on the heavily fished lakes and continue the use of slot limits.
- I think that all fish should be raised and put back into the same water that they came from. For instance if you take fish spawn from Lake Manitoba the fingerlings raised from these waters should be put back in the same waters.
- Stocking of drive to lakes is understandable.
  Are northern lakes ever considered or invited to participate?

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Gimli and Winnipeg.

- Neutral - limits ok.
- All agree, don't know why slot limit not implemented on more lakes.
- Also minimum size limit has to be considered in more areas.
- 2.8(a) Yes.
- 2.8(b) Yes.
- 2.8(c) Yes.
- 2.8(d) No catch and release.
- 2.8(e) Yes.
- 2.8(f) Yes.
- 2.8(g) Yes.
- 2.8(h) Yes.
- 2.8(i) Stupid.
- 2.8(d) No catch and release.
- 2.8(i) "lead weight", stupid?
- Agree.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Portage la Prairie, Thompson and Wabowden.

- The conservation licence is only half a limit. There are lots of different regulations and you better have your book with you. Regarding slot limits, the participant felt they were too variable. There should be one that generally applies.
- Catch and release versus recreational angling for consumption. More roads increase impacts.
- Catch / release less consumptive therefore more sustainable with economic opportunities.
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SUGGESTED POLICY 2.9:

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2.9c Consider experimental stocking programs where significant benefits may result.

2.9d Establish partnerships to provide required training for all privately operated fish hatchery and stocking programs in Crown waters, to ensure fish stocks are not adversely affected.

2.9e Discourage stocking where it is unlikely to provide stock enhancement benefits.

2.9f Develop guidelines, practices and conditions to govern the responsibilities of authorized individuals, commercial enterprises and groups in spawn taking, rearing and stocking of species.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 2.9

[redacted]

- Again part of Snow Lake's fish population diminishing was caused by harvesting pickerel spawn and taking it out of our lakes.
- Stocking programs already in place by government and Lake Manitoba Commercial Fishermen's Assoc. Policies already in place.
- On different parts of the bigger lakes.
- We also need to stock our small lakes and ponds with trout and other species to take the pressure off the walleye.
- Stocking is never a successful substitute for sound management and habitat protection. Stocking over the long term can reduce stock productivity by 1) decreasing fitness and 2) destabilizing the aquatic community.
- Preferable to improve natural breeding areas but this would provide a back up tool where natural spawning grounds are degraded.
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- I think that all fish should be raised and put back into the same water that they came from. For instance if you take fish spawn from Lake Manitoba the fingerlings raised from these waters should be put back in the same waters.
- Stocking of drive to lakes is understandable. Are northern lakes ever considered or invited to participate?

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Gimli, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- Agree.
- Who is to benefit from stocking programs? Commercial or recreational fishermen.
- Hatcheries have their place, but should not replace the natural spawning areas, and perhaps more resources should be spent on enhancing the natural existing areas.
- In some cases, hatcheries may also upset the natural populations of these creeks and streams.
- Rearing ponds may also provide fish with a better chance of survival than could hatcheries, which release fry when the migratory shorebird populations are high and hungry. Perhaps better to release in fall.
- Stock the lakes in order to bring the tourist / fisherman to the area. The more fish and variety of fish means the fisherman will come to fish the lake.
- With a variety of fish one species will not be over fished, i.e., trout, pickerel.
- Snow Lake only has one stocked lake in the region, how can you justify only stocking one lake in this area.
- 2.9(a) Yes.
- 2.9(b) Yes.
- 2.9(c) Yes.
- 2.9(d) Yes.
- 2.9(e) Yes.
- 2.9(f) Yes.
- Hatcheries aren't working. Why?
- When the level of fishing deteriorates in any particular lake - stocking should be investigated as an alternative.
- Restocking program, where is it at in the province.
- Meet the demand of the lakes and those who are fishing. Expensive process to run the restocking process (hatchery).
- Restock the smaller lakes, good investment for fisheries to look into. Increase the opportunities to fish some of the smaller lakes (restocking) both local and tourist alike.
- Restocking for recreational purposes not necessarily for commercial fishing.
- Government supply the fish for organizations to restock the lakes, i.e., The Pas Fish and Game stock with government supplying the fish.
- As long as a native species to the lake / waterway is not displaced in the process.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Dauphin, Norway House and Pine Dock.

- Toutes Aide Creek now Hamilton Drain. Spawn operation may have hurt the run.
- Walleye for stocking from Lonely Lake.
- Stocking to rehabilitate fisheries?
- Hatcheries all cut out - do they work ? - not sure
- Hatcheries - better off to let fish spawn on their own.

Policy Area 3.
Development and Use

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 1:

To promote the use and development of fisheries resources in an environmentally sound manner which will enhance and support an integrated and diversified sustainable economy.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 1

[redacted]

- Again part of Snow Lake's fish population diminishing was caused by harvesting pickerel spawn and taking it out of our lakes.
- Sounds good as listed above but your applications are a crock...!
- I believe that the commercial fishermen and women should have a say on fish prices.
- Establish partnerships and consult regularly not only with industry, Aboriginal community, other government organizations but also the public regarding development of new market niches and market expansion.
- Isn't this basically a business decision.
- Seasons should be extended in the spring to allow a generous harvest of mullets and in the fall to harvest cutter whites.
- Again, two concepts in one sentence. I agree with the first part, second unnecessary, empty words.
- It always comes down to politics to who gets their way (Lake Winnipegosis).
- If fish stocks can be brought back this would be a viable idea.
- Supply and demand works better than promotions.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Portage la Prairie, Swan River, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- Agree.
- Policy Area 3 (Commercial fishermen - rec. fishermen - cattle producers).
- Winnipegosis - flooding from diversion causes flood of agricultural lands.
- ? Why was "Forks" built on a low level mark. Brandon building on flood plain.
- Why compensation for people who choose to build on a flood plain.
- Promote commercial fishing - leave as is.
- Promote markets. We've reached maximum.
- The educational component is very important in this policy area.
- Commercial fishing does not at this time seem to be a problem for angling fishermen.
- Agree.

Staff Workshop Notes:

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Thompson.

- Transportation - lake side management.
- Nelson House - domestic fishing programs away from spawning areas - sustainable fisheries.
- Infrastructure/labour management skills.
  → nb → industry.

Policy Area 3.
Development and Use

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 1:

To promote the use and development of fisheries resources in an environmentally sound manner which will enhance and support an integrated and diversified sustainable economy.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 1

Agree - 89% Neutral - 8% Disagree - 3%

- Again part of Snow Lake's fish population diminishing was caused by harvesting pickerel spawn and taking it out of our lakes.
- Sounds good as listed above but your applications are a crock...!
- I believe that the commercial fishermen and women should have a say on fish prices.
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- It always comes down to politics to who gets their way (Lake Winnipegosis).
- If fish stocks can be brought back this would be a viable idea.
- Supply and demand works better than promotions.

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- Agree.
- Policy Area 3 (Commercial fishermen - rec. fishermen - cattle producers).
- Winnipegosis - flooding from diversion causes flood of agricultural lands.
- ? Why was "Forks" built on a low level mark. Brandon building on flood plain.
- Why compensation for people who choose to build on a flood plain.
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- Commercial fishing does not at this time seem to be a problem for angling fishermen.
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Staff Workshop Notes:

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Thompson.

- Transportation - lake side management.
- Nelson House - domestic fishing programs away from spawning areas - sustainable fisheries.
- Infrastructure/labour management skills. → nb → industry.

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 2:

To ensure fish are treated in a humane manner.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 2

Agree - 81% **Neutral - 14%** **Disagree - 5%**

- ?
- Hooks?
- Support the declaration of indigenous human rights and treaty rights, if 250 million peoples are not recognized, what's with the above!
- Rather unnecessary.
- We must have respect for this natural resource.
- ?
- Depends what we mean by "humane" especially to an average person as compared to an animal activist. I certainly would not totally agree with the definition from an animal activist.
- No comment.
- What is humane?
- Not everyone will follow the rules, and it is impossible to watch everyone over their shoulder.
- "Humane" must be defined. Different people place different values on the word humane, e.g., animal rights activists.
- Education, training, respect of resource are an ongoing commitment.
- The leaving of nets that catch fish, i.e., Waterhen in the ice.
- And assure that no more fish are left on the lake to rot regardless of size or quality.
- More education on proper catch and release.
- When fish are damaged or swallow a hook they should never be returned to water.
- Natural Resource Officers should ticket anyone using the resource inhumanely or irresponsibly, regardless of what authority they are fishing under, angling, netting or fishing for dog food.
- No barbed hooks good policy.
- Catch and release plus guides plugged into protection of fish stocks. We do.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Portage la Prairie, Swan River and Winnipeg.

- Agree.
- Humane fish - is this reasonable how could this impact commercial fishing.
- Do fish have feelings or is this just in to fall in guidelines?
- Agree.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.1:

Sustainable economic development and use opportunities for the commercial net fishing industry shall be identified and facilitated.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

- *3.1a Establish partnerships and consult regularly with industry, Aboriginal community and other government organizations regarding development of new market niches and market expansion.*
- *3.1b Support the expansion of intra-provincial direct sales to consumers by allowing small retailers to sell fish on behalf of specified fishermen.*
- *3.1c Continue to lobby the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation to liberalize fish sale opportunities via "Special Dealers Licences" while maintaining overall provincial support for the corporation.*
- *3.1d Establish partnerships and facilitate research into the use of under-utilized fish (i.e., rough fish) and value added processing of harvested fish resources.*
- *3.1e Develop management principles for "economic" and "community" commercial net fishing operations that identify broad objectives relative to maintaining and developing the industry including community participation, income supplement and primary income objectives.*
- *3.1f Encourage the use of technologies and methods which are environmentally sound and help lower the costs of harvesting and processing operations.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.1

Agree - 80% Neutral - 14% Disagree - 6%

- Aboriginal peoples of Manitoba are assembling a fishery directorate to assist the northern commercial fishery which is on verge of collapsing because Freshwater's Fish Marketing Board lack of export marketing of all fish species... In order to exceed and expand the sale of fish, to prosper commercial fishers Canada and Manitoba must disband FFMC. Commercial fisheries must be left alone to be effective. Privatization of the industry will prosper not only fishers but to inland businesses.
- Sounds good as listed above but your applications are a crock...! Regarding the rough fish being under-utilized, FFMC has more sales for rough fish than we commercial fishermen have been able to supply! Anyone who fished before the FFMC will disagree with opening up the markets. A lot of the people lobbying for this are not even fishermen!
- The market for rough fish has increased. This is excellent!
- It is just an excuse to set more nets. If this means more commercial net time I disagree because there is too much fishing already (mostly black marketing that needs to be stopped). Government is losing millions from loses in reported income and future stock sales.
- I am opposed to retailers selling fish for fishermen inter-provincial and special dealers licences. This is an attack on the FFMC which will hurt all fishermen.
- (d) Should be implemented with existing commercial fisheries (f) This should include 1) minimizing by catch and 2) developing fishing methods that allow survival (or increase survival) of by catch species.
- This should be more development on how to utilize home base fish plants.

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 2:

To ensure fish are treated in a humane manner.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 2

- ?
- Hooks?
- Support the declaration of indigenous human rights and treaty rights, if 250 million peoples are not recognized, what's with the above!
- Rather unnecessary.
- We must have respect for this natural resource.
- ?
- Depends what we mean by "humane" especially to an average person as compared to an animal activist. I certainly would not totally agree with the definition from an animal activist.
- No comment.
- What is humane?
- Not everyone will follow the rules, and it is impossible to watch everyone over their shoulder.
- "Humane" must be defined. Different people place different values on the word humane, e.g., animal rights activists.
- Education, training, respect of resource are an ongoing commitment.
- The leaving of nets that catch fish, i.e., Waterhen in the ice.
- And assure that no more fish are left on the lake to rot regardless of size or quality.
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- No barbed hooks good policy.
- Catch and release plus guides plugged into protection of fish stocks. We do.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Portage la Prairie, Swan River and Winnipeg.

- Agree.
- Humane fish - is this reasonable how could this impact commercial fishing.
- Do fish have feelings or is this just in to fall in guidelines?
- Agree.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.1:

Sustainable economic development and new opportunities for the commercial net fishing industry shall be identified and facilitated.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.1a Establish partnerships and consult regularly with industry, Aboriginal community and other government organizations regarding development of new market niches and market expansion.

3.1b Support the expansion of intra-provincial direct sales to consumers by allowing small retailers to sell fish on behalf of specified fishermen.

3.1c Continue to lobby the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation to liberalize fish sale opportunities via "Special Dealers Licences" while maintaining overall provincial support for the corporation.

3.1d Establish partnerships and facilitate research into the use of under-utilized fish (i.e., rough fish) and value added processing of harvested fish resources.

3.1e Develop management principles for "economic" and "community" commercial net fishing operations that identify broad objectives relative to maintaining and developing the industry including community participation, income supplement and primary income objectives.

3.1f Encourage the use of technologies and methods which are environmentally sound and help lower the costs of harvesting and processing operations.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.1

- Aboriginal peoples of Manitoba are assembling a fishery directorate to assist the northern commercial fishery which is on verge of collapsing because Freshwater's Fish Marketing Board lack of export marketing of all fish species... In order to exceed and expand the sale of fish, to prosper commercial fishers Canada and Manitoba must disband FFMC. Commercial fisheries must be left alone to be effective. Privatization of the industry will prosper not only fishers but to inland businesses.
- Sounds good as listed above but your applications are a crock...! Regarding the rough fish being underutilized, FFMC has more sales for rough fish than we commercial fishermen have been able to supply! Anyone who fished before the FFMC will disagree with opening up the markets. A lot of the people lobbying for this are not even fishermen!
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- (d) Should be implemented with existing commercial fisheries (f) This should include 1) minimizing by catch and 2) developing fishing methods that allow survival (or increase survival) of by catch species.
- This should be more development on how to utilize home base fish plants.

- I'd like to see these opportunities identified and proven prior to facilitation / implementation.
- By making better use of rough fish stocks.
- A goal should be zero tolerance on wastage: grounded heads etc. cooked, frozen for mink feed, etc.; rough fish, harvested prepared as human food: canned sucker, fish sticks, etc. There are some wonderful recipes out there that could be utilized. Rough fish - cat food.
- Establish partnerships and consult regularly not only with industry, Aboriginal community, other government organizations but also the public regarding development of new market niches and market expansion.
- Also do not tamper with Freshwater Fish Marketing Board.
- Course fish such as Jack and Whitefish should be kept under control by commercial net fishing.
- Don't understand what this means.
- It is now.
- Regional Fishery Directors and Biologists should communicate and co-operate with the commercial fishing industry more regularly.
- Commercial fishing is taking too many fish at present. Net fishery should be curtailed not expanded.
- I am not aware of the commercial fishing industry and I am not exposed to it in our area.
- Taking into account resident recreational angling opportunities as a first priority.
- Coarse fish market should be looked into very hard; even to provide direction for anglers to take carp etc.
- The best of nets have been developed (and fishing gear) hence the need to protect the lakes from over fishing!
- Government role can include market development.
- More emphasis needed on less popular game fish and rough fish to relieve pressure on the walleye.
- Licensing must be lowered over the next 10 years.
- Fresh Fish Marketing Board should work on developing markets for under-utilised fish species.
- Suckers are junk fish and if we are going to catch them we must be paid a bonus. FFMC does not pay us enough to make it worth the time and cost. Help FFMC to improve.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Pine Dock, Portage la Prairie, Swan River, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- 3.1(a) Disagree.
- 3.1(b) Disagree.
- 3.1(c) Disagree.
- 3.1(d) Agree.
- 3.1(e) Disagree.
- 3.1(f) Agree.
- Quality of water is a big problem for fish stocks more and more "garbage" species, i.e., maria, suckers, carp, bullheads that are bottom feeders are taking over the lakes.
- Keeping the spawning creeks open and clean is essential - keeping cattle out.
- Having sewage lagoons close to the creeks, rivers, lakes is very detrimental to the spawning areas and waters where fish must grow up.
- Groups working on different projects work together for the same end result instead of against each other.
- Small mesh fishery has an effect on the fishery. It takes more fish to fill a lake quota with small fish than the larger fish.
- Enhancement programs such as hatcheries / mobile hatcheries / spawn camps.
- Dollars and politics have too much control over the industry.
- There has to be accountability on the part of whoever controls the $, the projects, the dams, etc.
- 3.1(b) A possibility of local retailers selling fish in their stores.
- Commercial fishermen important as they remove coarse fish. Anglers target prime species.
- Commercial fishery in Lake Manitoba target prime species such as walleye.
- In Lake Dauphin, commercial fishermen go after species other than walleye since once they reach their quota of 750 lb. of walleye, they have to stop fishing.
- Need to develop fishery for carp. Carp harmful to fish habitat (as well as waterfowl habitat).
- FFMC should be making greater efforts to develop foreign markets for carp.

- First Nation (Waywayseecappo) looking at starting fish farms as commercial venture.
- Fish meal for fertilizer from rough fish in fishing community.
- Upgrade road access to community
- 3.1 Yes - better use of rough fish.
- 3.1(b) Need regulations to maintain product quality, "freshwater - fresh fish".
- Inspection.
- Fishermen should be allowed to sell their own fish.
- 3.1(a) All commercial fishing lakes must have consultation groups working closely with Department of Natural Resources staff. Where there is overlap within sport / commercial fishing lakes all groups must enter dialogue and seek common objectives. What do you want to achieve? Assess productivity. Reach for common goals.
- Policy statements are either too fragmented, complicated, wordy, etc.
- 3.1(b) Great concept however again the experienced cutbacks can make enforcement a nightmare. Do we have the resources that can monitor and have a handle on this.
- 3.1(c) Given opportunity for diversified sales and entrepeneurship.
- 3.1(d) The variations of fish have got to allow people the opportunity to experience - Swan Valley Sport Fishing Banquet.
- 3.1(e) Too wordy.
- 3.1(f) Again great in concept. Who's going to do it?
- Implement a mullet fishery, mullets eat / destroy fish eggs.
- Utilizing non sports fishing species in sports fishing lakes (20 to 30 lakes).
- Do not support continuation of FFMC.
- Want the opportunity to sell fish to whomever they want (north of 53°)."
- Displacing native people from lakes that they had traditionally (historically) fished.
- 3.1(a) Agree.
- 3.1(b) Agree but expand, e.g.) if a buyer offers better price than FFMC, fishermen should be allowed to sell. Price for mullets too low.
- 3.1(c) Agree.
- 3.1(d) Agree.
- 3.1(e) Agree.
- 3.1(f) Agree. Lower through put costs.
- 3.1(d) Can investigate / develop technologies allows the taking of smaller species while not sacrificing others in the gill net industry.
- 3.1(f) Include minimum bi-catch - develop increased survival of bi-catch and training programs in using this equipment.
- Agree with rest of statements.
- 3.1(b) No.
- 3.1(c) No.
- 3.1(d) Freshwater is already doing this.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Dauphin, Norway House, Pine Dock, South Indian Lake, Thompson and Wabowden.

- Commercial fishing - main species is walleye, then pike, tullibee, and perch.
- Understanding is that they stay away from walleye and catch other non-quota species.
- Feel we need commercial fishermen to take away rough fish. This benefits the lake. Anglers take away more fish. Need commercial fishermen as long as they stay away from walleye.
- Marketing board [FFMC] is not pushing rough fish. Potential is there. Could be shipping them to foreign countries. Potential in Asia, Jewish community is high.
- Starting dates shouldn't be cast in stone and should be flexible.
- Mesh size: 3 3/4 → 4 1/4", should discontinue use of.
- Recommendation to go to larger mesh size.
- Large fish don't bounce off smaller mesh.
- Resting Lake Winnipeg would "bankrupt" FFMC re: not supplying markets / demand.
- Upgrade access roads to fishing communities. Enhancement Fund (1 cent / lb.)
- FFMC opting out - similar to Island Lake
- Inland lakes fishing high costs of transportation causes bushing of less valuable species.

M121

IMPORTANT NOTE CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING PAGES

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- Downgrading whitefish classification makes investment difference. Uncertainty similar to issue of tenure.
- Making use of fish caught (don't bush it) shouldn't be a crime re: over harvesting quota.
- Nelson House - wants to opt out.
- FFMC has walleye market OK. Other species → whitefish and tullibee - can get higher prices.
- Fishing industry sustainability. Industry statement - need to take a lead in responsibility to promote / protect industry.
- Eat chicken cause it's cheaper.
- Advertisement T.V. - expensive and fishermen don't like it cause its out of fishermen's pocket.
- Opt out - no: "if they want fish companies they can put up with 15cents / lb. like I did"!
- Private agents are problem. FFMC
- Young people complaining don't know about fish companies.
- Fishermen own FFMC.
- Getting rid of FFMC would be a disaster. Concept is great but people running it are a problem.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.2:

Sustainable economic development and use opportunities for the tourism based fishing industry shall be identified and facilitated.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.2a Establish partnerships and consult regularly with the tourism industry, Aboriginal community and other government organizations regarding development of new market niches and market expansion.

3.2b Continue to support recreational fishing based tourism development, where it is economically viable, environmentally sound and does not interfere with existing operations in good standing.

3.2c Partner and work with local recreational fishing industry interests to develop tourist related services further to Winnipeg's Urban Angling Partnership and the Capital Region Sustainable Development Strategy.

3.2d Aggressively market recreational fishing opportunities to traditional market areas and facilitate increased promotion of recreational fishing opportunities to visitors in partnership with industry participants.

3.2e Increase efforts to attract non-traditional markets to view Manitoba as a recreational fishing destination.

3.2f Assist Manitoba tourist businesses in preparing and implementing marketing plans.

3.2g Work with the tourism industry and local governments on plans for maintaining and upgrading existing tourism related fishing infrastructure and facilities.

3.2h Work independently as well as with other provincial jurisdictions and national organizations to capture opportunities to market Manitoba internationally.

3.2i Partner and work with industry participants to promote responsible use of the resource and to ensure long term industry viability.

3.2j Develop a mandatory tourist lodge and outfitting quality assurance program with fee for service on a cost recovery basis.

3.2k Continue to actively promote recreational angling with private sector partners, e.g., Urban Angling Partnership's Learn to Fish Clinics, Fish Winnipeg Challenge and Fish Festival and support increased promotion of recreational angling as opportunities arise.

3.2l Manage road access to optimize the economic potential of the tourism fishery.

3.2m Recognize market demands for remote and isolated wilderness tourism experiences.

3.2n Encourage wilderness tourist developments within protected areas.

,Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.2

- Sounds good as listed above but your applications are a crock...!
- And just how do you figure on enforcing any laws of this nature.
- Promoting under-utilized species would be great, take a little pressure off the pickerel.
- Proposal #2: Tag system for harvesting of "1" Channel Cat. Guides and outfitters should have access to tags, as they do deer, for the possession of a determined amount to be shared between guides. This way clients who wish to take 1 fish home may. This is controlled and with a fee also puts $ back into the system.
- There should be more study on the effect of all the angling taking place on the Red River, it seems vastly over-fished.
- Tourism opportunities should not be enhanced through competitive fishing events.
- Add long term policy of replacement of commercial with recreational / tourism use of fish stocks. The economic yield / kg of fish caught is at least 10x that of a commercial food fishery.
- This is probably better left to private industry.
- Where commercial fishing is not viable.
- I agree if this could benefit the commercial fishermen and women, that be this they will the first to benefit from this opportunity of tourism.
- To identify, support and facilitate sustainable fish-based tourism development opportunities including eco-tourism and equal emphasis to the lodge and outfitter industry as well as the individual fishing enthusiast. 3.2(d) Aggressively market recreational fishing opportunities to traditional market areas and facilitate increased promotion of recreational fishing opportunities to visitors in partnership equally with industry participants and the public at large. 3.2(f) Assist Manitoba tourist businesses but not in preparing and implementing marketing plans. 3.2(i) Partner and work with industry participants as well as the average public citizens to promote responsible use of the resource and to ensure long term industry viability. 3.2(j) My feeling that developing a mandatory tourist lodge and outfitting quality assurance program with fee for service on a cost recovery basis gives "one" interest group too much clout. I would strongly support government stay out of this.
- Tourism doesn't do anything to help stock fisheries here in the Gillam area.
- ...some fishermen at Nelson House were spending $2.00 to catch a fish that brings in $1.50, and I suspect that since Nelson House has an all weather road and Thicket Portage does not, that the problem in Thicket is even worse. This doesn't make sense. Better to build tourist facilities and have anglers spend $2500.00 for five days of fishing where they can have a true out door experience complete with shore lunch; glimpses of wildlife; and catch and release some very exciting fish.
- Not too sure. Who would be in charge of the tourism and in the say of how many tourists are allowed and when enough is enough?
- More catch and release programs should be implemented.
- Limits for non-residents should be reduced, licence fees increased, and no master angler fish allowed to be kept... But where we're not getting our fair share is from American fishermen who come to Manitoba self-contained or staying at an American owned lodge, and do not contribute enough to our fishery or to our local merchants. Only a small segment of Manitobans are truly benefiting from these "tourists". On southern Manitoba lakes over harvest and trophy harvest is also taking place for a small nominal licence fee... I think non-resident licence fees should be increased drastically and a no trophy harvest for resident and non-resident alike be instituted.
- Provincial revenue can be increased by a factor of 8 or 10 if the fish is "angled" versus "commercial fishing".
- Payoffs in the end; good for the economy.
- Could be many answers to this question.
- There could be ten answers to this question.
- Taking into account resident recreational angling opportunities as a first priority.

- Downgrading whitefish classification makes investment difference. Uncertainty similar to issue of tenure.
- Making use of fish caught (don't bush it) shouldn't be a crime re: over harvesting quota.
- Nelson House - wants to opt out.
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Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.2a Establish partnerships and consult regularly with the tourism industry, Aboriginal community and other government organizations regarding development of new market niches and market expansion.

3.2b Continue to support recreational fishing based tourism development, where it is economically viable, environmentally sound and does not interfere with existing operations in good standing.

3.2c Partner and work with local recreational fishing industry interests to develop tourist related services further to Winnipeg's Urban Angling Partnership and the Capital Region Sustainable Development Strategy.

3.2d Aggressively market recreational fishing opportunities to traditional market areas and facilitate increased promotion of recreational fishing opportunities to visitors in partnership with industry participants.

3.2e Increase efforts to attract non-traditional markets to view Manitoba as a recreational fishing destination.

3.2f Assist Manitoba tourist businesses in preparing and implementing marketing plans.

3.2g Work with the tourism industry and local governments on plans for maintaining and upgrading existing tourism related fishing infrastructure and facilities.

3.2h Work independently as well as with other provincial jurisdictions and national organizations to capture opportunities to market Manitoba internationally.

3.2i Partner and work with industry participants to promote responsible use of the resource and to ensure long term industry viability.

3.2j Develop a mandatory tourist lodge and outfitting quality assurance program with fee for service on a cost recovery basis.

3.2k Continue to actively promote recreational angling with private sector partners, e.g., Urban Angling Partnership's Learn to Fish Clinics, Fish Winnipeg Challenge and Fish Festival and support increased promotion of recreational angling as opportunities arise.

3.2l Manage road access to optimize the economic potential of the tourism fishery.

3.2m Recognize market demands for remote and isolated wilderness tourism experiences.

3.2n Encourage wilderness tourist developments within protected areas.

,Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.2

Agree - 80% Neutral - 17% Disagree - 4%

- Sounds good as listed above but your applications are a crock...!
- And just how do you figure on enforcing any laws of this nature.
- Promoting under-utilized species would be great, take a little pressure off the pickerel.
- Proposal #2: Tag system for harvesting of "1" Channel Cat. Guides and outfitters should have access to tags, as they do deer, for the possession of a determined amount to be shared between guides. This way clients who wish to take 1 fish home may. This is controlled and with a fee also puts $ back into the system.
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- Not too sure. Who would be in charge of the tourism and in the say of how many tourists are allowed and when enough is enough?
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- Provincial revenue can be increased by a factor of 8 or 10 if the fish is "angled" versus "commercial fishing".
- Payoffs in the end; good for the economy.
- Could be many answers to this question.
- There could be ten answers to this question.
- Taking into account resident recreational angling opportunities as a first priority.

- Carp fishery promote local and abroad.
- Providing the daily limits and the amount taken out of the country is carefully scrutinized.
- Tourism with its spin-offs is a big economic shot in the arm for all of Manitoba but especially the north.
- Only if regulations are followed to sustain fishing for the future.
- We should not go overboard attracting new markets. Our fish resource is not that strong. 3.2. Roads should not be encouraged to open up new areas. Leave the "wild areas" as they are.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Pine Dock, Portage la Prairie, Swan River, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- 3.2(a) Disagree.
- 3.2(b) Agree.
- 3.2(c) Look after themselves.
- 3.2(d) Agree.
- 3.2(e) Agree.
- 3.2(f) Disagree should be able to do on own - not depend on government.
- 3.2(g) Agree - fix Steeprock dock.
- 3.2(h) Agree.
- 3.2(i) Agree.
- 3.2(j) Agree.
- 3.2(k) Agree.
- 3.2(l) Agree.
- 3.2(m) ?
- 3.2(n) Disagree.
- Commercial fishing is necessary on the lake to maintain balance of species.
- North basin / south basin should be separated on Lake Manitoba similar to Lake Winnipeg where south end fishermen have to stay in their own area and vice versa.
- Spawning / rearing areas should not be fished (zoning out parts of the lake). Lake Winnipeg has these variances.
- Water levels on Lake Manitoba are down at least a foot. Water levels should be higher to sustain fish.
- Low water levels affect the whole system, i.e., if Lake Manitoba is low then Fairford, Lake St. Martin and Dauphin River is low. High water has a similar affect.
- Restrictions on recreational fishing with barbless hooks, size restrictions, smaller limits are adequate. The enforcement of these regulations must be kept up.
- Need to provide greater opportunities for European anglers to come into area to angle for carp.
- Carp angling is an untapped source of revenue.
- Don't advertise enough about angling / sport fishing opportunities in the area.
- Many US anglers pass through area on way to fish in more northerly areas.
- Should be advertising the fact that Lake Dauphin is the ice fishing capital of Manitoba.
- Get North Dakota anglers that come up to ice fish in winter.
- Better advertising would result in greater economic return.
- Estimate that for every $1 invested in advertising there is $6-7 return.
- Lodges need to cater more to clients, e.g., driving to Winnipeg to pick up anglers.
- Made mention of the pathways to fishing program in area that targets young people (e.g., schools, cub and scout groups). Teaches young people how to fish. Participants in the annual Family Fishing Weekend.
- First Nations looking to develop fish resources in lakes around community to provide recreational fishing opportunities for tourist. This development part of a general overall recreational strategy.
- Develop wilderness or "back to the land" experiences for tourists.
- Angling - not applicable.
- 3.2(b) Focus developing tourism in accordance with sustainability. Limit where necessary on lodges.
- Little background on existing status. Difficult.

- 3.2(a) The key to successful tourism is marketing. How can 4 people 2 in Thompson, 2 in The Pas do their job in promoting one of largest tourist bases in the world. Again if this is so N.B. We need the staff.
- 3.2(b) As Manitobans everyone should have access to any waters in this province. No one should have exclusive use.
- 3.2(c) Capital Region Sustainable Development Strategy?
- 3.2(d) Winnipeg's fine. What about the rest of Manitoba?
- 3.2(e) If this is the case one must be sure to deliver. Promote things you aren't using, i.e., catfish / carp.
- 3.2(f) Yes.
- 3.2(g) Good concept. Proper department has to market this.
- 3.2(h) Promote people to utilize the fishing resource in a way . It is very N.B. for people to realize the economic benefits of a live fish. The joy and thrill that a person can derive from that experience. This will go a long way in the reducing the mismanagement of a resource. It is N.B to educate Aboriginal people in a way that they are able to relate to their culture and historical background in managing a species and not be a threat to rights.
- Re-establish facility rating (1) to (5). Keep the standards where they should be. Charge the fee and pay the price!
- Make sure proper monitors are done in those areas not formerly available by road, in order to observe the levels before they are fished out. If the fish levels drop-off a restock program should be implemented.
- Minnowing monitors might be a solution to fish stock levels.
- Heard this strategy before it isn't working. Needs to be more coordination of regional, community development organizations.
- Marketing really key; has not been effective.
- Need more innovation in marketing.
- 3.2(j) Very important point to assure quality assurance to incoming visitors.
- Agree with points in general. Would like to see a shift from commercial fishing to recreational tourism.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Flin Flon, Snow Lake and Thompson.

- Diversification, get anglers to fish other species than walleye.
- 3.2(b) Cormorant Board, did conservation closure on Pickerel Creek and work on fishermen's licences / allocations.

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SUGGESTED POLICY 3.3:

Sustainable economic development and use opportunities for the industry; servicing resident and non-resident recreational angling shall be identified and facilitated.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.3a Partner and work with the recreational angling service industry to promote responsible use of the resource and to enhance long term industry viability.

3.3b Facilitate increased promotion of recreational angling opportunities to residents, seniors, students and new Canadians in partnership with industry participants.

3.3c Continue to actively promote recreational angling with private sector partners, e.g., Urban Angling Partnership's Learn to Fish Clinics, Fish Winnipeg Challenge and Fish Festival and support increased promotion of recreational angling as opportunities arise.

3.3d Encourage the use of techniques to prevent winter kill in important recreational angling water bodies.

3.3e Encourage the use of under utilized fish species for recreational angling.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.3

Agree - 77% **Neutral - 19%** **Disagree - 5%**

- Resident yes, non-residents should pay. A tourist must pay $400.00 per day to recreational fish in Iceland. They have a healthy industry!
- We shouldn't be catering so much to American neighbours because they don't cater to us.
- Add long term policy of replacement of commercial with recreational / tourism use of fish stocks. The economic yield / kg of fish caught is at least 10x that of a commercial food fishery.
- This should happen if the people that are most effected are part of the plan to the opportunities for this industry, e.g., Aboriginal peoples of Canada.
- In this area the resident angler should take precedent over the non-resident.
- Encourage the use of under utilized fish species for recreational angling by working in the field of suitable recipes for consumption.
- Support all private sector partners in Manitoba.
- As long as we have provincial government head stuck in the sand we'll never have anything done in northern Manitoba.
- Not too sure. How would the increase in recreational fishing affect the number of fish and having to stock the lakes? How would you know how much fishing can be done before there are no more fish?
- Much greater economic and tourist benefit can be achieved with recreational use of the fish resource.
- Taking into account resident recreational angling opportunities as a first priority.
- Teach kids in school to fish to show how to use leisure time.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.3:

Sustainable economic development and use opportunities for the industry servicing resident and non-resident recreational angling shall be identified and facilitated.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

- *3.3a Partner and work with the recreational angling service industry to promote responsible use of the resource and to enhance long term industry viability.*
- *3.3b Facilitate increased promotion of recreational angling opportunities to residents, seniors, students and new Canadians in partnership with industry participants.*
- *3.3c Continue to actively promote recreational angling with private sector partners, e.g., Urban Angling Partnership's Learn to Fish Clinics, Fish Winnipeg Challenge and Fish Festival and support increased promotion of recreational angling as opportunities arise.*
- *3.3d Encourage the use of techniques to prevent winter kill in important recreational angling water bodies.*
- *3.3e Encourage the use of under utilized fish species for recreational angling.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.3

[illegible]

- Resident yes, non-residents should pay. A tourist must pay $400.00 per day to recreational fish in Iceland. They have a healthy industry!
- We shouldn't be catering so much to American neighbours because they don't cater to us.
- Add long term policy of replacement of commercial with recreational / tourism use of fish stocks. The economic yield / kg of fish caught is at least 10x that of a commercial food fishery.
- This should happen if the people that are most effected are part of the plan to the opportunities for this industry, e.g., Aboriginal peoples of Canada.
- In this area the resident angler should take precedent over the non-resident.
- Encourage the use of under utilized fish species for recreational angling by working in the field of suitable recipes for consumption.
- Support all private sector partners in Manitoba.
- As long as we have provincial government head stuck in the sand we'll never have anything done in northern Manitoba.
- Not too sure. How would the increase in recreational fishing affect the number of fish and having to stock the lakes? How would you know how much fishing can be done before there are no more fish?
- Much greater economic and tourist benefit can be achieved with recreational use of the fish resource.
- Taking into account resident recreational angling opportunities as a first priority.
- Teach kids in school to fish to show how to use leisure time.

- Non-resident (U.S.) should be treated like they treat us. In U.S., non-resident fees are much higher than ours, considering exchange now.
- Providing that fish stocks are available.
- We feel that the non-resident should be on a conservation licence only.
- Don't get so interested in non-resident recreational angling income that invites big outfitters to get a foot hold and ruin your wilderness.
- We control numbers of people and boats on lakes. Catch and release. Promote only June and August - cradles - single barbless - handling.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Portage la Prairie, The Pas, Thompson and Winnipeg.

- Agree with all.
- Need to develop tourist angling for carp. Good potential market in Europe.
- Keep publishing Manitoba Fishing Guide.
- 3.3(d) winterkill and other issues that affect angling; disease, pollution, etc.
- Fishing by non-resident has become to commercialized; self-contained R.V. instead of lodge / hotel / camp. Buy their licence then go on their way to fish!
- Per night fee for those people who are self-contained, only for those who are self-contained - American. Control this at the border.
- Encourage use of jacks, burbot, suckers.
- Should be application regarding assisting local entrepreneurs in locations like Pine Falls in developing services for resident anglers.
- Agree with comments.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Dauphin, Flin Flon, Garden Hill and Wabowden.

- Any carp recipes?
- Maximum size limits cause big fish tying up resources fewer fish to harvest.
- Happy with the way fishery is operating. Plant manager opted out of FFMC - fishermen could not make any money.
- Non-resident angling, lots come in and do damage to fish stocks.
- Lake trout in Bowden appreciated. Quality of life issue.
- Tourism "we" get are parks and beavers. Livelihood is primarily commercial fishing.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.4:

Other sustainable economic development and use opportunities related to fish resources shall be identified and facilitated.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.4a Improve coordination, information exchange and prepare information packages respecting non-traditional commercial fishing related opportunities such as aquaculture, and pay to fish ponds.

3.4b Establish partnerships and encourage and facilitate non-traditional uses and developments of fish resources.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.4

Agree - 83% **Neutral - 15%** **Disagree - 2%**

- Generally agree, but with the caveat: that no aquaculture or stocked pond operation should use any non-native species or non-native stock of a native species when there is any chance of the cultured stock escaping and surviving in natural waters.
- Same as above comment, i.e., This should happen if the people that are most effected are part of the plan to the opportunities for this industry, e.g., Aboriginal peoples of Canada.
- Okay but lets make sure they are sustainable - elementary first principle.
- Maybe this "pay to fish" ponds on private land or reserves would answer the question of meeting some of the Aboriginal treaty and constitutional obligations.
- Same as above, i.e., As long as we have provincial government head stuck in the sand we'll never have anything done in northern Manitoba.
- What is other? Commercial fishing and angling are the only use for fish.
- Economic development of resources is already excessive.
- Other is too broad a word.
- How about establish partnerships to promote aquaculture to raise bait minnows as an example.
- Taking into account resident recreational angling opportunities as a first priority.
- Rough fish, promotion of some species that sometimes are overlooked, i.e., pike, carp,etc.
- Viewing of spawning fish but stay away from import stocks of fish.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.4

[illegible]

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.4a Improve coordination, information exchange and prepare information packages respecting non-traditional commercial fishing related opportunities such as aquaculture, and pay to fish ponds.

3.4b Establish partnerships and encourage and facilitate non-traditional uses and developments of fish resources.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.4

- Generally agree, but with the caveat: that no aquaculture or stocked pond operation should use any non-native species or non-native stock of a native species when there is any chance of the cultured stock escaping and surviving in natural waters.
- Same as above comment, i.e., This should happen if the people that are most effected are part of the plan to the opportunities for this industry, e.g., Aboriginal peoples of Canada.
- Okay but lets make sure they are sustainable - elementary first principle.
- Maybe this "pay to fish" ponds on private land or reserves would answer the question of meeting some of the Aboriginal treaty and constitutional obligations.
- Same as above, i.e., As long as we have provincial government head stuck in the sand we'll never have anything done in northern Manitoba.
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- Taking into account resident recreational angling opportunities as a first priority.
- Rough fish, promotion of some species that sometimes are overlooked, i.e., pike, carp,etc.
- Viewing of spawning fish but stay away from import stocks of fish.

- If the base is there!
- Pay ponds would be great as this would introduce more people physically impaired and children and new people to fishing.
- Development should not allow for a land grab of Crown assets. Eventually this could restrict the movement and enjoyment by a resident across lands that rightfully belong to all citizens of the province or Canada.
- Only if a balance is followed that the environment is managed for future.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg.

- Disagree.
- Economic development plan for First Nations (Waywayseecappo) has recreational orientation.
- Want to diversify recreational opportunities for tourists etc. and in turn diversify employment / job opportunities.
- Need to do more to inform residents and tourists of local recreational fishing opportunities and make greater effort to reach potential markets.
- First Nations look to create possible employment opportunities through development of fish hatcheries.
- 3.4(b) "partnerships" Fish Ponds - Ecotourism.
- 3.4(b) Make sure undesirable species not introduced. Identify more tourism opportunities, i.e., commercial fishing holidays.
- Should include other "fish" than fin fish, e.g., crayfish.
- 3.4 That no aquaculture or stocked personal operation should use non-native species or non-native stock of native species where there is any chance of the cultural stock escaping and surviving in natural waters.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Brandon, Flin Flon, Portage la Prairie and Wabowden.

- Would like to see more use made of rough fish.
- Carp - people from England pay big bucks to come here to fish carp.
- Have all these "carp beds" at the Narrows.
- Look at the catfish industry - maria is tasty - carp are fun to fish.
- New Canadians all like rough fish.
- We should increase limits (lake trout, stocked trout) to disperse fishing efforts.
- People all want walleyes and big pike compete with fishermen. Tourism opportunity: Americans want pike.
- Undesirables should not be introduced. A commercial fishing holiday should be introduced.
- Rough fish removal on recreational fished lakes.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.5:

A regulatory system which recognizes and supports a diversified and sustainable economy shall be pursued and promoted.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.5a *Continue to review provincial acts and regulations to reduce complexity and ensure provincial regulatory overlap and red-tape is minimized without compromising resource sustainability while enhancing economic viability.*

3.5b *Ensure provincial fish legislation is written in the most direct and straightforward manner necessary to meet the intents of those acts and regulations.*

3.5c *Continue negotiations with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans for the transfer of administrative authority for fish habitat management to the province.*

3.5d *Work towards the elimination of federal - provincial regulatory duplication and overlap associated with fish and for habitat management and administration.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.5

- Sounds good as listed above but your applications are a crock...!
- How?
- No over regulation please.
- First, sustainable harvest of fish stocks, it turns out, is dependent on waterbody-by-waterbody or even stock-by-stock individual regulation. For example, look at Alberta's revised regulations as of 1998. This is not compatible with simple regulations.
- The freshwater fishing industry should allow individual communities to benefit from economic opportunities such as sell their product anywhere, where the price is right and the best.
- We should work on stocking, rearing ponds and fix creeks up for spawning to bring up and keep up fish stocks in our natural lakes.
- Work towards the elimination of federal-provincial regulatory duplication; transfer of authority for fish habitat management as well as all other fish management into the hands of the province. Fish management should be the sole responsibility of the provincial government with input from interested groups and the individual fishing enthusiasts.
- I'm not sure I know what this means.
- Must have more users involved in regulations.
- Very important.
- We already have quotas.
- We have quotas.
- Regulation S / B based on resource sustainability not economic sustainability.
- 3.5.B should have been used in this work book process.

- There definitely needs to be more clear consolidation of rules and regulations regarding management.
- Partner government with stakeholders.
- Particularly 3.5(b) - You need to be a lawyer sometimes just to decipher some of the regulations.
- Only if regulations are maintained to protect the resource.
- Don't let the minority prevail with economic growth that allows big business to take over your rural serenity and turn it into mass people infiltration.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg.

- 3.5(a) Agree - too much...
- 3.5(b) Agree.
- 3.5(c) Agree.
- 3.5(d) Agree.

- Clientele at fishing lodges generally not too concerned with fishing regulations.
- Set a slot limit on fish, consistent and provincial wide.
- 3/5(d) yes.
- General agreement.
- 3.5(a) Nice to do, but impossible to do if you wish to ensure fish stocks throughout various areas of the province.
- 3.5(c) Agree for the day to day operations but don't want total discontinuance because of resources.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Brandon and Portage la Prairie.

- Try to simplify things, policy / regulatory overlap.
- But will it be for the better or worse?
- 3.5 There should be a consistent province wide slot limit. Each lake should not have its own regulations.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.6:

Prices for the commercial and recreational use and development of fish resources shall reflect its environmental, economic and social value.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.6a Develop, in consultation with the public, full cost accounting methodologies for resource pricing that include environmental, economic and social values. These methodologies will be used to establish prices, fees and royalties for use of the fish resource.

3.6b Review and revise current means of capturing resource rent from commercial fishing by establishing a system of licence fees and royalties that ensures resources are used efficiently and the resource rent the province receives reflects the costs of administering and managing the commercial fishery.

3.6c Continue, in the interim, to set licence fees for recreational fishing that reflect the cost of administering an effective recreational fishing program.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.6

- This is too broad. The present trend is for major (tax) revenue grabs by government under the guise of user pay which usually is far too high.
- Licences are reasonable now and should stay that way. The amount of money government gets already should be sufficient.
- I think the prices are high enough.
- Don't overprice it or we will all lose big time! Proposal #3: After 65 why do Seniors have to pay! They paid enough and if their health is permitting let them alone! They should comply with limits but they have done their job and now deserve to at least go fishing!

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.5:

A regulatory system which recognizes and supports a diversified and sustainable economy shall be pursued and promoted.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.5a Continue to review provincial acts and regulations to reduce complexity and ensure provincial regulatory overlap and red-tape is minimized without compromising resource sustainability while enhancing economic viability.

3.5b Ensure provincial fish legislation is written in the most direct and straightforward manner necessary to meet the intents of those acts and regulations.

3.5c Continue negotiations with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans for the transfer of administrative authority for fish habitat management to the province.

3.5d Work towards the elimination of federal - provincial regulatory duplication and overlap associated with fish and for habitat management and administration.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.5

Agree - 81%   Neutral - 15%   Disagree - 5%

- Sounds good as listed above but your applications are a crock...!
- How?
- No over regulation please.
- First, sustainable harvest of fish stocks, it turns out, is dependent on waterbody-by-waterbody or even stock-by-stock individual regulation. For example, look at Alberta's revised regulations as of 1998. This is not compatible with simple regulations.
- The freshwater fishing industry should allow individual communities to benefit from economic opportunities such as sell their product anywhere, where the price is right and the best.
- We should work on stocking, rearing ponds and fix creeks up for spawning to bring up and keep up fish stocks in our natural lakes.
- Work towards the elimination of federal-provincial regulatory duplication; transfer of authority for fish habitat management as well as all other fish management into the hands of the province. Fish management should be the sole responsibility of the provincial government with input from interested groups and the individual fishing enthusiasts.
- I'm not sure I know what this means.
- Must have more users involved in regulations.
- Very important.
- We already have quotas.
- We have quotas.
- Regulation S / B based on resource sustainability not economic sustainability.
- 3.5.B should have been used in this work book process.

- There definitely needs to be more clear consolidation of rules and regulations regarding management.
- Partner government with stakeholders.
- Particularly 3.5(b) - You need to be a lawyer sometimes just to decipher some of the regulations.
- Only if regulations are maintained to protect the resource.
- Don't let the minority prevail with economic growth that allows big business to take over your rural serenity and turn it into mass people infiltration.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg.

- 3.5(a) Agree - too much...
- 3.5(b) Agree.
- 3.5(c) Agree.
- 3.5(d) Agree.

- Clientele at fishing lodges generally not too concerned with fishing regulations.
- Set a slot limit on fish, consistent and provincial wide.
- 3/5(d) yes.
- General agreement.
- 3.5(a) Nice to do, but impossible to do if you wish to ensure fish stocks throughout various areas of the province.
- 3.5(c) Agree for the day to day operations but don't want total discontinuance because of resources.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Brandon and Portage la Prairie.

- Try to simplify things, policy / regulatory overlap.
- But will it be for the better or worse?
- 3.5 There should be a consistent province wide slot limit. Each lake should not have its own regulations.

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3.6a Develop, in consultation with the public, full cost accounting methodologies for resource pricing that include environmental, economic and social values. These methodologies will be used to establish prices, fees and royalties for use of the fish resource.

3.6b Review and revise current means of capturing resource rent from commercial fishing by establishing a system of licence fees and royalties that ensures resources are used efficiently and the resource rent the province receives reflects the costs of administering and managing the commercial fishery.

3.6c Continue, in the interim, to set licence fees for recreational fishing that reflect the cost of administering an effective recreational fishing program.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.6

Agree - 72%   Neutral - 16%   Disagree - 11%

- This is too broad. The present trend is for major (tax) revenue grabs by government under the guise of user pay which usually is far too high.
- Licences are reasonable now and should stay that way. The amount of money government gets already should be sufficient.
- I think the prices are high enough.
- Don't overprice it or we will all lose big time! Proposal #3: After 65 why do Seniors have to pay! They paid enough and if their health is permitting let them alone! They should comply with limits but they have done their job and now deserve to at least go fishing!

- Any increase in commercial fishing licences would be an unnecessary hardship. These monies can be better spent on necessary equipment.
- 3.6(b) Does this mean that commercial fisheries will cease being another way to distribute welfare? I doubt it! For example, if we paid all of the costs for producing it, a can of salmon from BC would probably cost over $200.00.
- Prices for commercial use support the economic value to a community. Recreation prices are basically for the political party in power.
- This should have been here right from the start. This will ensure the fishermen and women will get their dollars worth for their hard work.
- I believe it quite legit to invest tax dollars to management of fishery resource if we are looking after wellness of society.
- Senior citizens should not require to purchase fishing licences.
- Would want more discussion on this topic.
- Develop in consultation with the public full cost accounting methodologies, used to establish prices, fees for replenishing lakes with fingerlings from hatcheries and royalties for use of the fish resource.
- We must be careful not to increase our licence fees too high, it would discourage fisher persons. "Reduce cost of Conservation Officer operations."
- Strongly agree on commercial but should be borne by F.F.M.C. not the fishermen. Disagree on sport fishing. Sport fishing licences should not be the place for monetary recovery. Sport fishing generates taxes through sales and should not have to be gouged here again.
- How do you put a monetary value on life?
- American fishermen should have to pay more for their licenses than they currently do.
- If this is implemented, fees, licences and royalties must be retained by Natural Resources and not be put in "general revenue" as is present policy.
- Don't overcharge for licences or people will quit angling. Especially teens.
- Sounds too much like licence fees, permits, etc. shall carry the Fisheries Branch - healthy resource benefits even non-users.
- Recreational fishing pumps large amounts of money into economy. Until now most Manitobans don't realize the amount of money it generates in our economy.
- Monies spent by Manitobans is still money spent at home not going to Ontario, Saskatchewan or going gambling and taking money out of Manitoba.
- This question makes no sense.
- Sorry misunderstood the question. It is time that government stepped in to help!
- Commercial Licence fees should be much higher.
- I would also suggest an increase in commercial licence fees up to $100.00, This is not an unreasonable amount, and it would raise a lot of money for stocking and habitat enhancement projects. Helper permits would be a token $10.00.
- More equity needed when you compare the cost of a recreational licence vs. the cost of a commercial licence. The per unit royalty on commercial volume is negligible compared to the per unit return for angled fish.
- Avoid increasing the fishing licence fees so high that people cannot afford it and stop fishing as it has happened with hunting licences.
- Concerns about recreational fishing licences. Example seniors on fixed income and lots of time.
- The dollar value to the economy - areas that provide for the community remote or drivable considered.

Group Workshop Notes

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Portage la Prairie, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- 3.6(a) Disagree.
- 3.6(b) Disagree.
- 3.6(c) Disagree.
- Need greater dialogue / consultation / cooperation between different user groups.
- Reference to bringing back co-management groups?
- Lake Manitoba commercial fishermen already contribute one cent / kg for fisheries enhancement works; mostly directed at restocking programs.

- Charge commercial fishermen for catch amount rather than an up front free.
- Standardize licences, etc.
- Fishing seasons are varied from province to province. Fishing fees are pretty much the same across the country.
- Manitoba closed, Saskatchewan is open for fishing. Puts pressure on the lakes and the fish populations.
- Wildlife fees are varied, fishing fees are not! Why?
- Treat the fishing fees as we do wildlife fees.
- Are we going to be charging more for fishing and the enjoyment of fishing. If we do then Manitoba should not be forced to pay the same as the rest of the country or non-residents.
- Why did the 65 and over come into play, 65 and over must now pay for a fishing licence.
- Is this to generate more funds for the province?
- Sport fishing funds cover costs of stocking and working within the provincial programs. Recover the costs! Not enforcement of the regulations.
- Regulate where a non-resident can't fish unless they pay an extra fee to fish this lake (stocked location).
- Price structures for the various lakes being fished; stocked versus non-stocked.
- No royalties on commercial fishing.
- 3.6(b) A worthy concept - but is it realistic?

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Portage la Prairie and Thompson.

- 3.6 Commercial fishermen should pay per ton not one licence fee. Licences should be standardized.
- The Lake Manitoba Fishermen's Association has asked the government to increase commercial fishing licence fees to help out more, to have a fund to do more things. Apparently, commercial fishermen had recommended a $20 to $200 increase. They have done projects anyway.
- Values / Prices need to be fair and leave reasonable amounts for resource harvesters.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.7

Incentives which support remote fishing communities and encourage sustainable economic development of fish resources shall be considered and, where appropriate, established.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.7a Review existing subsidies and support to the fishing industry and work with the industry to amend and establish incentives to ensure they encourage stakeholders and users of the resource to reinvest in their industry and strengthen their commitment to the sustainability of the resource and their industry and eliminate those incentives which do not.

3.7b Continue to provide transportation cost relief through special programs.

3.7c Establish partnerships and work with relevant agencies and organizations to assess the feasibility of developing a wage subsidy program for northern remote fishing lodges hiring local persons.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.7

- They have to pay quite a sum of money to fly their fish, which is hard on fishermen.
- Northern communities should receive a freight allowance which the government used to allow them. FFMC is short fish and this would generate the resource. Regarding northern Aboriginal fishermen, if the government would reintroduce the freight credits it would make their fishing a viable operation again. To open up the sales of fish rather than going through FFMC would be like going back in time, not progressing.

- Charge commercial fishermen for catch amount rather than an up front free.
- Standardize licences, etc.
- Fishing seasons are varied from province to province. Fishing fees are pretty much the same across the country.
- Manitoba closed, Saskatchewan is open for fishing. Puts pressure on the lakes and the fish populations.
- Wildlife fees are varied, fishing fees are not! Why?
- Treat the fishing fees as we do wildlife fees.
- Are we going to be charging more for fishing and the enjoyment of fishing. If we do then Manitoba should not be forced to pay the same as the rest of the country or non-residents.
- Why did the 65 and over come into play, 65 and over must now pay for a fishing licence.
- Is this to generate more funds for the province?
- Sport fishing funds cover costs of stocking and working within the provincial programs. Recover the costs! Not enforcement of the regulations.
- Regulate where a non-resident can't fish unless they pay an extra fee to fish this lake (stocked location).
- Price structures for the various lakes being fished; stocked versus non-stocked.
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- 3.6(b) A worthy concept - but is it realistic?

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3.7b Continue to provide transportation cost relief through special programs.

3.7c Establish partnerships and work with relevant agencies and organizations to assess the feasibility of developing a wage subsidy program for northern remote fishing lodges hiring local persons.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.7

Agree - 74% **Neutral - 18%** **Disagree - 8%**

- They have to pay quite a sum of money to fly their fish, which is hard on fishermen.
- Northern communities should receive a freight allowance which the government used to allow them. FFMC is short fish and this would generate the resource. Regarding northern Aboriginal fishermen, if the government would reintroduce the freight credits it would make their fishing a viable operation again. To open up the sales of fish rather than going through FFMC would be like going back in time, not progressing.

- The industry must pay its own way. If the remote lakes cannot fish without taxpayers help, then don't issue a licence.
- I think the prices are high enough.
- Transportation subsidy.
- I don't know of any existing subsidies and support for our industry either provincial or federal.
- I told you, you weren't going to stop subsidizing commercial fishing! As a taxpayer, I don't mind paying to keep people working, even if it's not an economically viable job. Just be honest about what you're doing!
- Same as above comment, i.e., This should have been right from the start. This will ensure the fishermen and women will get their dollars worth for their hard work.
- Keep in mind that these fishermen should be paying a fee per unit weight of harvested fish for replenishing of lakes with hatchery fingerlings.
- Taxpayer funded monetary incentives? No.
- Sustainable economic development should not need government incentives.
- Education and training should be a thrust by this government to develop and maintain the un-tapped resources in the north.
- If it isn't viable to commercial fish in an area then taxpayers shouldn't have to help fund its fishing.
- Remote fishing communities do well on their own, with minimal review.
- Bands (First Nations) should follow some rules.
- 3.7(a) and 3.7(b) All subsidies to commercial fishing should be eliminated. 3.7(c) Strongly agree. Great benefits to northern communities could be obtained with this proposal.
- People should know that once the resource is depleted that is it. That must be all the incentive they need.
- Again I can agree as long as it is managed properly and not just a government program that is milked and abused.
- This could also apply to our southern lakes.
- Remote communities already seem to be supported however development of fish resources would be excellent as even there it's a problem.
- Incentives should be on a cost share basis to be most viable.
- If it is not economically feasible to commercially fish a location, it should not be encouraged.
- Look at recreational use as well as commercial, more sustainable!
- There are areas in north that could be developed and should pay for themselves in time.
- Non-viable commercial fisheries should not be subsidized, however, recreational and tourist fishing on non-viable commercial lakes should be helped (subsidizing lodges and outfitters, if need be).
- Only if it is proven that the lodge or resort is shown to put money back into the region or resource.
- It's nice to leave some of the remote areas alone so they can stay remote and wild.
- Where appropriate is the key to controlling influx of big business that over run local fish ponds etc.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern and Winnipeg.

- 3.7(a) Agree. Government should institute freight equalization programs for remote northern communities.
- 3.7(b) Agree.
- 3.7(c) Disagree.
- Subsidy (incentive) for mullets.
- 3.7(c) Look at ways to shift current commercial into recreational / tourism opportunities.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshop in South Indian Lake.

- Inland lakes fishing high costs of transportation causes bushing of less valuable species.
- Why foreign aid when Canada's own citizens are suffering.
- Government supports farmers but no compensation for fishermen when poor seasons / conditions.
- No taxes - if you buy boat and motor? Fairness issue; farmers get support but fishermen don't.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.8:

Provision of fishing related infrastructure, e.g., public and community docks, boat launches and roads shall be encouraged, where appropriate, and planned to ensure the sustainability of all resources and support sustainable economic development.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.8a Partner and work with the federal government and communities in the planning and development of public and community boat launches and docks.

3.8b Coordinate and consider all the effects of road development to optimize benefits and minimize costs to all resource users, Manitobans, the fish resource, the environment and society.

3.8c Manage non-resident access to fish resources and angling opportunity to optimize economic benefits.

3.8d Ensure remote fishing related businesses and affected communities are aware of road developments and have an opportunity to participate in the decision making process.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.8

Agree - [illegible] Neutral - 5% Disagree - [illegible]

- Also stop denying access to fish resources by branches of government which are not related (such as Lands Branch denying fish camps.) They have no rights to regulate fishing.
- Building into remote areas never ever helps, it only kills the area.
- We need decent facilities where the bottom of boats aren't killed.
- But see comments on 3.6 and 3.7 above.
- If this was the case what will protect the fish from getting killed by anyone that has and will have access to their habitat?
- The Department of Natural Resources needs to provide access to fishing waters with cleaning tables and garbage removal, i.e., Assiniboine River.
- 3.8(b) Careful consideration be given to the effects of road development through and to the fish resource (lakes) as this may upset other resources like wildlife. 3.8d. To ensure that not only remote fishing businesses and affected communities have an opportunity to participate in the decision making process but that the rest of Manitobans have a say in the decision as roads into remote areas have an effect on other ecosystems, e.g., Wildlife that are an issue by a totally different group.
- Partner with communities and Feds to create breakwater where feasible for the protection of docks and launches and erosion.
- These public areas, where a lot of chemical usages, and exposed to environmental surfaces, which creates a negative impact towards Natural Resources, they should be properly examined.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.8:

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3.8c Manage non-resident access to fish resources and angling opportunity to optimize economic benefits.

3.8d Ensure remote fishing related businesses and affected communities are aware of road developments and have an opportunity to participate in the decision making process.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.8

Agree - 86% Neutral - 9% Disagree - 6%

- Also stop denying access to fish resources by branches of government which are not related (such as Lands Branch denying fish camps.) They have no rights to regulate fishing.
- Building into remote areas never ever helps, it only kills the area.
- We need decent facilities where the bottom of boats aren't killed.
- But see comments on 3.6 and 3.7 above.
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- Partner with communities and Feds to create breakwater where feasible for the protection of docks and launches and erosion.
- These public areas, where a lot of chemical usages, and exposed to environmental surfaces, which creates a negative impact towards Natural Resources, they should be properly examined.

- With our bigger (and better) boats and equipment this is a must. The days of pulling green poplar poles and pulling up 14' and 15' boats with 2.5 to 10 HP motor is long past.
- ...Not been done at the present time. Logging roads are being closed, bridges destroyed etc. Policy at the present time...Present policy where roads and bridge crossing have to be destroyed when timber harvesting is completed in areas near highways and towns should be reversed...Manitoba policy is completely opposite policies in other provinces, such as Saskatchewan and Ontario.
- The province should not look at cost recovery for the public using these facilities, we pay enough taxes already.
- Where appropriate, is the key.
- Attracts people; greatly impacts the aquatic ecosystem, e.g., litter / rocks.
- I heartily agree on the improvement of community docks and boat launches. Roads are another matter. Would hate to see some of our pristine wilderness strewn with new roads!
- Cost share with benefactors.
- When increasing access, regulations to control harvest must be in place 1st to prevent over harvest.
- Off roads into more lakes in Riding Mountain and other areas could be done as funds are available.
- Especially 3.8 c) Need more monitoring of non-resident activities. Some "fishermen" are getting extreme value for their $40.00 fee. They don't even buy a loaf of bread anymore!
- Do not overdo the building of new roads into areas. Past experiences indicate that once an area becomes road accessible, the quality of the resources is reduced drastically.
- Same as above (3.7), i.e., It's nice to leave some of the remote lakes alone so they can stay remote and wild.
- Descent access is good enough, adequate docks and boat launches will suffice. Stay away from the elaborate stuff.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Portage la Prairie, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- Agree with all.
- Area has very poor infrastructure for recreational boaters / fishermen / anglers, e.g., launching pads in particular, also docks.
- Need more funds for recreational boat / fishing docks.
- Better launching and docking facilities would attract more tourism.
- Partnership (matching funds) between government and non-profit agencies when developing infrastructures.
- Fishing by non-resident has become to commercialized; self-contained R.V. instead of lodge / hotel / camp. Buy their licence then go on their way to fish!
- Per night fee for those people who are self-contained, only for those who are self-contained, American. Control this at the border.
- Make sure proper monitors are done in those areas not formerly available by road, in order to observe the levels before they are fished out. If the fish levels drop-off, a restock program should be implemented.
- General agreement.
- Agree with comments.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in South Indian Lake and Thompson.

- In low water docks are out of the water.
- How do you manage access to a community?
- Want a road, but also fear it. Right now Tolko is refusing to build it.
- Determine issues...address them. E.g., non-resident camping, Lands Act, recreational fish limits, etc.
- 3.8(b) Access issues → managed? To ensure sustainable and conservation.
- Access causes resource depletion.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.9

Labour and management skills shall be enhanced through training and education.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.9a Establish partnerships and work with the various fishing related industries to identify the management, technical and labour skills required.

3.9b Establish partnerships and encourage community colleges, and schools to include programs which develop and address the education and training needs of the industry, e.g., school initiated courses and student-initiated projects.

3.9c Establish partnerships and encourage and support community and fishermen association apprenticeship and on-the-job training opportunities and programs.

3.9d Encourage the entrance of Aboriginal persons into training and education programs directed at employment opportunities in the area of resource management and enforcement.

3.9e Identify and eliminate barriers to the admission of Aboriginal persons to education and training programs and courses in the field of fish management and enforcement.

3.9f Provide within government departments on-the-job training programs for Aboriginal persons directly and indirectly related to fish management and enforcement.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.9

- People need to know more about fishing.
- Aboriginals have had more opportunity than I by far and have not taken it anyway. They rely on "treaty rights" and we can kiss their smile!
- But what about educating (and employing) some fishery biologists and (to be original) enough NRO's to ensure enforcement of the existing regulations.
- Knowledge is the key to most successful plans, but I think the fishermen should have priority over anyone else to benefit from training and education, because they will keep their values and beliefs and ethics to make sure what the future hold.
- There is strong need to promote fishing and recreational spin-offs in the secondary education system.
- The emphasis of the education programs should be on sustainable harvest and development of the fish resource; resource management and enforcement.
- To my knowledge I do not know of any barriers for Aboriginal person that do not pertain to the rest and society.
- Of whom?
- Wasted money in most cases.
- Great idea.
- Having courses is great. Education should require individuals to go to all courses, etc. not just as a token.
- 3.9(f) No preferential treatment for anyone. All are equal under the law.
- At whose expense?
- Agree on 3.9A-B-C - not on d-e-f as all peoples shall have same rights.
- These types of jobs should have been initiated and started long ago. If more interest had been generated before, problems wouldn't exist that we have now!

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.9:

Labour and management skills shall be enhanced through training and education.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

3.9a Establish partnerships and work with the various fishing related industries to identify the management, technical and labour skills required.

3.9b Establish partnerships and encourage community colleges, and schools to include programs which develop and address the education and training needs of the industry, e.g., school initiated courses and student-initiated projects.

3.9c Establish partnerships and encourage and support community and fishermen association apprenticeship and on-the-job training opportunities and programs.

3.9d Encourage the entrance of Aboriginal persons into training and education programs directed at employment opportunities in the area of resource management and enforcement.

3.9e Identify and eliminate barriers to the admission of Aboriginal persons to education and training programs and courses in the field of fish management and enforcement.

3.9f Provide within government departments on-the-job training programs for Aboriginal persons directly and indirectly related to fish management and enforcement.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.9

Agree - 80% Neutral - 16% Disagree - 4%

- People need to know more about fishing.
- Aboriginals have had more opportunity than I by far and have not taken it anyway. They rely on "treaty rights" and we can kiss their smile!
- But what about educating (and employing) some fishery biologists and (to be original) enough NRO's to ensure enforcement of the existing regulations.
- Knowledge is the key to most successful plans, but I think the fishermen should have priority over anyone else to benefit from training and education, because they will keep their values and beliefs and ethics to make sure what the future hold.
- There is strong need to promote fishing and recreational spin-offs in the secondary education system.
- The emphasis of the education programs should be on sustainable harvest and development of the fish resource; resource management and enforcement.
- To my knowledge I do not know of any barriers for Aboriginal person that do not pertain to the rest and society.
- Of whom?
- Wasted money in most cases.
- Great idea.
- Having courses is great. Education should require individuals to go to all courses, etc. not just as a token.
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- These types of jobs should have been initiated and started long ago. If more interest had been generated before, problems wouldn't exist that we have now!

- Only where necessary. By training fishing tour guides - commercial we could expand the number of skilled people beyond the ability of the industry (fish's) ability to support them.
- But keep the costs down as much as possible.
- 3.9(e) - This is the only barrier I have ever heard of to limiting opportunity.
- Suggest that Aboriginal people get more involved in protecting the resource.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Pine Dock and Winnipeg.

- Disagree.
- Better training and educating of guides.
- Better guides would pass on knowledge to tourist anglers.
- Currently have Pathways to Fishing aimed at young people to get them involved in angling.
- First Nation interested in having above group present seminars on fishing on the reserves. Would emphasize the family values and participation which in turn could help in reducing or preventing some of the social problems on reserves such as alcohol and drug abuse.
- Voluntary checkoff for fish enhancement.
- General agreement.
- Agree with comments, but funds / education need to go towards fish biologists and Resource Officers for the province as well - need to be maintained and increased.

SUGGESTED POLICY 3.10:

The harvest and use of fish resources shall be conducted in a humane manner.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests Manitoba Government:

3.10a Prepare codes of practice for various fish resource users on the humane treatment of fish.

3.10b Continue to allow only barbless hooks to be used in recreational fishing for a quicker release of those fish not being kept for consumption.

3.10c Continue to enforce regulations prohibiting the wastage of fish.

3.10d Inform and educate recreational anglers, commercial net fishermen and the general public on proper fish handling procedures.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 3.10

Agree - 87% **Neutral - 12%** **Disagree - 2%**

- I disagree only because enforcement is impossible.
- What is "humane" by your definition?
- Not caught and played with and tortured for fun. There should be a minimum strength of fish line selected to the size of fish being caught. Many fish swim away with undersized line and leader after the line breaks to get caught on a rock or jagged bottom where they slowly die from starvation.

  It is only because they are silent and unseen that it is allowed. If any other species of animal was treated like this there would be a huge outcry about it. There should be a law against torturing anything for fun. Playing a fish on the end of a line is cruel and then releasing it to do it again is terrible.

- Only where necessary. By training fishing tour guides - commercial we could expand the number of skilled people beyond the ability of the industry (fish's) ability to support them.
- But keep the costs down as much as possible.
- 3.9(e) - This is the only barrier I have ever heard of to limiting opportunity.
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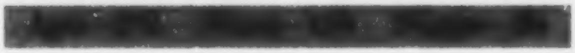

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  It is only because they are silent and unseen that it is allowed. If any other species of animal was treated like this there would be a huge outcry about it. There should be a law against torturing anything for fun. Playing a fish on the end of a line is cruel and then releasing it to do it again is terrible.

- Commercial fishermen don't need a policy to teach humane handling of fish. We have a lot of respect for them.
- How about supporting the declaration of indigenous human rights.
- (b-d) are all good. For (a) there are codes for scientist and anglers probably could compile a code based on existing practice and philosophy. I see a threat that the animal rights movement will begin to encroach on all forms of fishing; so there is a political dimension to this.
- No comment.
- Will this affect the use of fish stringers, live wells, etc. How will this affect the use of bait, i.e., leeches, worms, minnows.
- ?
- When we prepare a "humane" code of practise for fish treatment, we do not lean to heavily towards the animal activist.
- I rate all of these neutral because I am not sure of the suggested role of government. If government is to lead these policies I disagree.
- This should be priority and exercised.
- But once fish has been caught in net or by hooks 50 to 70, die from handling.
- What is a "humane manner"? How do you treat fish in a "humane manner"? What isn't "humane"?
- 3.10(a) Once you start this, it will be just like trapping. We would have to keep our fish alive!

  Humane? Animal rights activists will take over net fishing. Barbless hooks are okay, but don't start bothering nets!
- 10b. There is nothing humane about a fish. Barbless fishing "Sucks".
- Again, humane must be clearly defined.
- Fish is a cold blooded animal and the word humane does not apply.
- No more dead fish laying on the ice. No more anglers releasing hurt fish. Why is the person shown in the picture (page 45) not wearing gloves! Treat fish with respect, do not handle with bare hands!
- State as in a humane manner as possible. Standards should be set by commercial fishermen etc.
- Some people are only trophy fishermen and should always release fish very gently.
- I'm also concerned about fish that are caught and released by sport fishermen. Does anyone know how many of these fish later die because of injuries caused by rough handling, extraction of the hook, or exhaustion? Other than education, I don't know what can be done, you can't legislate compassion. Perhaps students could be hired to be roving, hands on instructors on the proper handling of fish, particularly on young fishermen, before they acquire bad habits they will carry for life. Two benefits would result from such a program: more caring sport fishermen, and much needed summer employment for students.
- Silsby Lake Lodge will survive with single barbless hooks. Catch and release, cradles, regulated numbers of fishing people.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at workshops in Ashern, Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg.

- Agree with all.
- 3.10(a) This is a challenge.
- Agree should work on.
- Agree with comments - need to do more public education.
- 3.10(d) Suggested techniques for handling fish: release- removal of hooks, etc.

Policy Area 4. Planning and Integrated Management

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 1: *To ensure an integrated ecosystem based planning and management process is implemented.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 1

- But this is at variance with some of your policies on stocking fish (2.9).
- Without a well thought out plan this resource will suffer, along with the people that depend on it.
- As we realize that the lakes in the Parkland region show indication of fish depletion as the size and number weight of walleye caught on Lake Manitoba during summer angling season has depleted quite significantly in the last 15-20 years.
- Good suggestion. Management of the ecology is needed to ensure the sustainability of the resource.
- Key words - proper planning management.
- Whole communities have to be more concerned about the whole ecosystem. No one was concerned when all the frogs vanished. Frog picking was allowed to go on too long. It is a very delicate balance. Killing cormorants and beaver isn't the answer. Water is the most important resource and it's the most poorly managed!
- Make sure the industry not interested groups (animal rights etc.) are not decision or policy makers.
- Leave the country as pristine as possible. I don't like it when sewage is drained from some cabin areas into lakes. Holding tanks should be used for inside plumbing and sewage hauled away.
- Would need a clarification of "full cost accounting borne by society". Obviously local residents could not bear developmental costs for infrastructure necessary to open the north all on our own.
- We do at Silsby Lake Lodge, High Hill and Cuddle Lake.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in The Pas and Winnipeg.

- Management should be on watershed basis to ensure integrated ecosystem.
- Combine the Water Resources and Fisheries Branches for more efficient ecosystem / fish management

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 2

To ensure fish management plans are developed and implemented that balance environmental, health, social and economic needs of present and future Manitobans while balancing the needs of individuals with the greater public good.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 2

- What does that mean?
- When treaty indigenous peoples are recognized and included as part of the sharing of resource use and planning within Manitoba.
- Opague at best! What on earth does that say?
- As long as this process is biased towards ecosystem health and the sustainability of the wildlife resource rather than economy.
- As we realize that the lakes in the Parkland region show indication of fish depletion as the size and number weight of walleye caught on Lake Manitoba during summer angling season has depleted quite significantly in the last 15-20 years.
- Management plans should at least indicate what is wanted from a fishery.
- There are only individual rights. The public is simply a group of individuals, so 'public good' is just the 'good' of individuals.
- Same comments as for 1, i.e., Good suggestion. Management of the ecology is needed to ensure the sustainability of the resource.
- Who has greater public good?
- Need to make people more aware about how everything we do effects the ecosystem therefore us too!
- Need to recognize how the ecosystem could be affected in the future and how to prevent certain conditions from occurring.
- Don't forget bordering residents in Saskatchewan and Ontario. We are in the ecosystem!
- "What a mouthful".
- The Manitoba public good.
- The sustainability of the fish are of much greater importance than the health, social and economic needs of people.
- It would be very pleasant to think that something is finally being done. Would be excellent "if" the Aboriginal people who are selling fish to white people could be halted (illegal sales).
- Always look to the future.
- As long as individuals are Canadians.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshop in Flin Flon.

- ATV's have made it easier to get to the lakes that have never been fished.
- New methods of travel have made it easier to get to the lake, over fish the area and head for the next virgin lake.
- Control the waterways and access to the waterways.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshop in Wabowden.

- Recreational fish value $200,000 vs. 2300 fishermen. Remember families / helpers etc.
- Fishermen have few other opportunities.

Policy Area 4. Planning and Integrated Management

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 1:

To ensure an integrated ecosystem based planning and management process is implemented.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 1

Agree - 86% **Neutral - 13%** **Disagree - 2%**

- But this is at variance with some of your policies on stocking fish (2.9).
- Without a well thought out plan this resource will suffer, along with the people that depend on it.
- As we realize that the lakes in the Parkland region show indication of fish depletion as the size and number weight of walleye caught on Lake Manitoba during summer angling season has depleted quite significantly in the last 15-20 years.
- Good suggestion. Management of the ecology is needed to ensure the sustainability of the resource.
- Key words - proper planning management.
- Whole communities have to be more concerned about the whole ecosystem. No one was concerned when all the frogs vanished. Frog picking was allowed to go on too long. It is a very delicate balance. Killing cormorants and beaver isn't the answer. Water is the most important resource and it's the most poorly managed!
- Make sure the industry not interested groups (animal rights etc.) are not decision or policy makers.
- Leave the country as pristine as possible. I don't like it when sewage is drained from some cabin areas into lakes. Holding tanks should be used for inside plumbing and sewage hauled away.
- Would need a clarification of "full cost accounting borne by society". Obviously local residents could not bear developmental costs for infrastructure necessary to open the north all on our own.
- We do at Silsby Lake Lodge, High Hill and Cuddle Lake.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in The Pas and Winnipeg.

- Management should be on watershed basis to ensure integrated ecosystem.
- Combine the Water Resources and Fisheries Branches for more efficient ecosystem / fish management

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 2:

To ensure fish management plans are developed and implemented that balance environmental, health, social and economic needs of present and future Manitobans while balancing the needs of individuals with the greater public good.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 2

Agree - 88% **Neutral - 11%** **Disagree - 1%**

- What does that mean?
- When treaty indigenous peoples are recognized and included as part of the sharing of resource use and planning within Manitoba.
- Opague at best! What on earth does that say?
- As long as this process is biased towards ecosystem health and the sustainability of the wildlife resource rather than economy.
- As we realize that the lakes in the Parkland region show indication of fish depletion as the size and number weight of walleye caught on Lake Manitoba during summer angling season has depleted quite significantly in the last 15-20 years.
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- There are only individual rights. The public is simply a group of individuals, so 'public good' is just the 'good' of individuals.
- Same comments as for 1, i.e., Good suggestion. Management of the ecology is needed to ensure the sustainability of the resource.
- Who has greater public good?
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- Need to recognize how the ecosystem could be affected in the future and how to prevent certain conditions from occurring.
- Don't forget bordering residents in Saskatchewan and Ontario. We are in the ecosystem!
- "What a mouthful".
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- The sustainability of the fish are of much greater importance than the health, social and economic needs of people.
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- Always look to the future.
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- ATV's have made it easier to get to the lakes that have never been fished.
- New methods of travel have made it easier to get to the lake, over fish the area and head for the next virgin lake.
- Control the waterways and access to the waterways.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshop in Wabowden.

- Recreational fish value $200,000 vs. 2300 fishermen. Remember families / helpers etc.
- Fishermen have few other opportunities.

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 3:

To improve the quality and availability of information used in planning and managing fish resources.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 3

Agree - 89% **Neutral - 9%** **Disagree - 2%**

- What's your plan of action?
- Commercial fishermen need more information on the size and age of fish so they can consider the impact of the fish harvest they are taking out of a body of water.
- To improve the quality of the information you need trained fishery biologists, which have become all too scarce with government cutbacks. You won't get good information without having good, trained people to get it.
- Fisheries science is often an oxymoron.
- The goal is to protect the resource that it will not be abused and it will be here forever.
- I feel that this is where we are lacking important data to make educated decisions to maintain the Lake Manitoba walleye population.
- Much of this information is non-technical.
- Accurate information should be used at all times and available toward the public.
- As a student, I have little idea about fish and problems with the fish. Information and education would be needed to make better choices.
- Informing the public is often the first step to ensuring that the ecology is protected and sustained.
- No personnel and no money is heard in The Pas every time we ask for information re: decline in pickerel at Rocky Lake near Wanless.
- Refer to Policy 3.1., that is, Regional Fishery Directors and Biologists should communicate and co-operate with the commercial fishing industry more regularly.
- Information's great, however it needs to be written and presented in a manner in which everyone can understand. Also make it relate to people.
- Provided this gives people relevant, timely and usable information and not just take money away from projects and enhancements for bureaucratic red tape.
- Improved, valid data should be a high priority.
- The more information and education material we can have access to the better it will be for promotion of the resource.
- More proactive study.
- It would be lovely to receive information on a monthly basis on the work done to improve fish habitat etc.
- Where cost effective.
- A number of management decisions made by government seem to be at odds with current published data. The few public forms soliciting input are usually just notifications of what will be!

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshop in Flin Flon.

- Water studies should be made available to the public. Help to educate the public on keeping the lakes and rivers clean.

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 4: ***To ensure public participation in the planning and management of fish resources.***

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 4

Agree - 83% **Neutral - 10%** **Disagree - 7%**

- Everyone has different ideas on the subject.
- The public does not know enough about the resource to be involved in the planning and management of fish resources.
- You have "planned" things behind closed doors and spring them on us "enough"!
- Not so sure about general public. They may not be aware of all the issues (e.g., trapping).
- Must include treaty peoples and the provincial government's acknowledgement of our human rights and royalty rights.
- All Manitobans should have a say as to what happens to this resource, also the more input the better.
- There needs to be more input into regulations by the public.
- The public are the people, who fish Lake Manitoba and realize what is happening. If there were adequate statistics on fish in Lake Manitoba that would lead to some educated decisions on managing fish resources on Lake Manitoba.
- Good luck Department of Natural Resources.
- Does "ensure" mean force?
- Public participation would encourage people to co-operate with any laws or regulations as they would feel that they had a part in the laws, and weren't just being told what to do by government officials.
- The general public aren't of much value. The fishermen are the ones who will be of the most assistance.
- Too many cooks spoil the broth if not conducted in an organized diplomatic fashion.
- How can we help? What can we do differently?
- But ultimately decisions must be based on valid, scientific biological information.
- Grassroots participation is always welcomed.
- On certain lakes there are only views of the commercial concerns and anglers come after.
- This is where more information is required.
- To insure industry and public [participation...]
- The public should know what is going on.
- See above, i.e., A number of management decisions made by government seem to be at odds with current published data. The few public forms soliciting input are usually just notifications of what will be!
- Let the locals control their own future.

Group Workshop Comments

The following is a comment made at the workshop in Flin Flon.

- Involve the local people in how to resolve the fishing problem. Do not get too localized.

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 3:

To improve the quality and availability of information used in planning and managing fish resources.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 3

- What's your plan of action?
- Commercial fishermen need more information on the size and age of fish so they can consider the impact of the fish harvest they are taking out of a body of water.
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- Must include treaty peoples and the provincial government's acknowledgement of our human rights and royalty rights.
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- Let the locals control their own future.

Group Workshop Comments

The following is a comment made at the workshop in Flin Flon.

- Involve the local people in how to resolve the fishing problem. Do not get too localized.

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 5:

To protect and enhance human life and well-being by maintaining and enhancing biological diversity.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 5

- But how is this relevant??
- Must include treaty peoples and the provincial government's acknowledgement of our human rights and royalty rights.
- Rather outside the scope of this policy and would tend to occur anyway if all the other management tools were effectively applied.
- This should be left to nature itself.
- I don't know how this works.
- Why is it necessary or how is it possible to protect or enhance human life through fish?
- Not sure what this means.
- Human life depends on a healthy environment.
- Enhance the resource first before human input.
- Can't stress the importance of clean (clear unpolluted) water highly enough.
- Pollution affecting fish affects all living creatures.
- A nice motherhood statement! For the most part non-attainable.

Group Workshop Comments

The following is a comment made at the workshop in Winnipeg.

- Combine Water Resources and Fisheries Branches for more efficient ecosystem / fish management.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Pine Dock and South Indian Lake.

- Need opportunity other than fishing, if you don't fish nothing else to do. E.g., Forestry Lac du Bonnet / Pinefalls coming up (along east side) yet Pine Dock 3 km across lake! (proximity priority)
- Common with Hydro poor, now that they've done their damage they sit in their offices.

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.1:

Work towards the establishment of an ecosystem based approach to resource management and planning processes.

Applications: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.1a *Undertake pilot ecosystem based management projects.*

4.1b *Establish partnerships and facilitate and encourage research into ecosystem based management.*

4.1c *Foster the establishment of integrated planning and management structures and processes in provincial government departments and between departments and between the Government of Manitoba and other jurisdictions.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.1

- No mention was made of the impact cormorants have on fish stocks in some areas of Manitoba. This is a real concern to fishermen as they are overpopulated.
- No comment.
- Most of the material is becoming repetitious and monotonous.
- One hand should know what the other one is doing.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Gimli, Portage la Prairie, Swan River, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- 4.1(a) Research facilities in other provinces and states: Minnesota, Winonan, fish ponds.
- Reduce agricultural waste in H20.
- Air windmills and solar power pumps to pump H20 out of lakes and dugouts.
- Repair original spawning grounds.
- Examine changes to ecosystem and if within reasonable expense, rechannel flow of streams to enhance spawning.
- Too many spawning grounds have been destroyed.
- 4.1(b) This is essential: Commercial fishermen, anglers, camp operators, hotel owners and associated tourist businesses must meet more often as occurred in November 1998.
- 4.1(c) Linearize the government process. It seems there are too many levels of government to deal with.

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 5:

To protect and enhance human life and well-being by maintaining and enhancing biological diversity.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 5

Agree - 84% Neutral - 14% Disagree - 3%

- But how is this relevant??
- Must include treaty peoples and the provincial government's acknowledgement of our human rights and royalty rights.
- Rather outside the scope of this policy and would tend to occur anyway if all the other management tools were effectively applied.
- This should be left to nature itself.
- I don't know how this works.
- Why is it necessary or how is it possible to protect or enhance human life through fish?
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Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Pine Dock and South Indian Lake.

- Need opportunity other than fishing, if you don't fish nothing else to do. E.g., Forestry Lac du Bonnet / Pinefalls coming up (along east side) yet Pine Dock 3 km across lake! (proximity priority)
- Common with Hydro poor, now that they've done their damage they sit in their offices.

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.1:

Work towards the establishment of an ecosystem based approach to resource management and planning processes.

Applications: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.1a Undertake pilot ecosystem based management projects.

4.1b Establish partnerships and facilitate and encourage research into ecosystem based management.

4.1c Foster the establishment of integrated planning and management structures and processes in provincial government departments and between departments and between the Government of Manitoba and other jurisdictions.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.1

Agree - 88% **Neutral - 12%** **Disagree - 1%**

- No mention was made of the impact cormorants have on fish stocks in some areas of Manitoba. This is a real concern to fishermen as they are overpopulated.
- No comment.
- Most of the material is becoming repetitious and monotonous.
- One hand should know what the other one is doing.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Gimli, Portage la Prairie, Swan River, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- 4.1(a) Research facilities in other provinces and states: Minnesota, Winonan, fish ponds.
- Reduce agricultural waste in H20.
- Air windmills and solar power pumps to pump H20 out of lakes and dugouts.
- Repair original spawning grounds.
- Examine changes to ecosystem and if within reasonable expense, rechannel flow of streams to enhance spawning.
- Too many spawning grounds have been destroyed.
- 4.1(b) This is essential: Commercial fishermen, anglers, camp operators, hotel owners and associated tourist businesses must meet more often as occurred in November 1998.
- 4.1(c) Linearize the government process. It seems there are too many levels of government to deal with.

- 4.1(a) CDC projects could utilize spawning techniques and support the endeavour financially, i.e., apply for enhancement project, i.e., Ashern or Local Government District, Conservation Districts.
- Lake Dauphin Basin Advisory Board identified as the flagship of ecosystem based management approach to resource management.
- Advisory Board should be used as a template for ecosystem based approach to resource management.
- Reference made to silt build-up only on west side of lake.
- Cormorants are the "wolves of the sea". Should their populations be reduced like wolves have been? Do they benefit fish stocks by reducing sick, old and diseased?
- Farmers, cattle producers, commercial fishermen, outfitters, lodge operators should have a strong voice in developing and implementing strategies. (People whose living depends upon resources).
- Some of the people sent to make decisions haven't come to any conclusions.
- Getting all organizations together to discuss the thoughts is generally wanted (co-management).
- Major need for co-management.
- More control of the areas that are commercially fished such as Reindeer Lake that are natural spawning lakes for Winnipegosis.
- Hopefully a possibility for commercial fishermen to net carp which isn't a natural fish.
- Dams or something to maintain water levels to control environment.
- Riparian zone management.
- Cormorants - manage them to sustain fish populations.
- Where does the resource people and dollars come from to do these types of programs?

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Flin Flon, Garden Hill, Gimli and Snow Lake.

- Mullets are predators on game fish eggs so commercial fishery (spring harvest) is good idea.
- Last 10-15 years fishery depleting.
- Cormorants and White pelicans on Beaverhill: "What can you do about them?" "How do you kill them?"
- Cormorants destroy fish (documented photos).
- Too late (re: solution for cormorants) we've lost the war…too many.
- Watershed Plans - look at areas as a watershed and not selected areas
- Suggest policy be on basis of watershed.
- Walleye fisheries in Wekusko Lake. Limit on Wekusko Lake reduced for anglers: What about commercial fishery?
- Poor mismanagement when we knew about poor spawning classes.
- Formed Wekusko Lake Management Committee to develop a plan and have pamphlet of plan.
- Cormorant issue: Urban areas where lots, spray a mineral oil over eggs. Historically washtubs collect and feed to dogs and use in baking. Brandon area - mould of an alligator (12') floatation devices and cormorants left.
- Recommend a policy to scare off or oil eggs.
- What proportion of fish take do cormorants have. They are a problem in number of places in North America. Estimate is they consume a 1 lb. a day (Lake Winnipegosis estimated 14 billion / million pounds).
- Suggest we need a policy for controlling cormorants.
- What diet do they take?
- Need research on cormorants and then from this research a policy for controlling them.

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.2:

All land use and resource plans shall address and integrate relevant issues related to fish resources.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.2a Review and revise as required existing provincial plans by identifying and addressing fish resource issues.

4.2b Review existing planning processes and ensure fish resources are integrated into those processes.

4.2c Review and amend as required all relevant planning and management legislation to ensure fish resources are identified and accounted for in plans.

4.2d Review existing project and program planning, approval and licensing processes to ensure fish resources are considered and the sustainability of the resource is protected.

4.2e Prepare, in partnership and in consultation with the Aboriginal community, local government, stakeholders and the public, fish resource guidelines and management practices for use in such activities and projects as road planning and construction, land clearing, urban development, subdivision design and construction.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.2

- We should try to protect spawning areas. However your applications just look like a make work project.
- Hasn't this been done all along?
- Only where fish resource issues are important.
- The land and the resource work hand in hand to produce good fish.
- By maintaining natural flow and drainage - do not disturb the banks of rivers and creeks - leave natural cover along all flowing waters.
- Very significant policy of fish management when activities like road planning and construction, land clearing, urban development are considered.
- Put this effort where it will yield the greatest results.
- Existing plans should be revised to accommodate changing times.
- But remember that the landowners around the waters need certain rights and some flexibility should be given them.
- Keep an eye on rural municipal road building schemes. These guys build monuments where an existing road is fine.
- Even look back at projects already done.
- The whole ecosystem needs to be protected. All the trees - everything from frogs to fish.
- Land use - - - related to fish resources where economically possible.
- As well as other wildlife.
- You can try. But I doubt if you will succeed.

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.2:

All land use and resource plans shall address and integrate relevant issues related to fish resources.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.2a Review and revise as required existing provincial plans by identifying and addressing fish resource issues.

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4.2e Prepare, in partnership and in consultation with the Aboriginal community, local government, stakeholders and the public, fish resource guidelines and management practices for use in such activities and projects as road planning and construction, land clearing, urban development, subdivision design and construction.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.2

Agree - 86% **Neutral - 10%** **Disagree - 3%**

- We should try to protect spawning areas. However your applications just look like a make work project.
- Hasn't this been done all along?
- Only where fish resource issues are important.
- The land and the resource work hand in hand to produce good fish.
- By maintaining natural flow and drainage - do not disturb the banks of rivers and creeks - leave natural cover along all flowing waters.
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- Even look back at projects already done.
- The whole ecosystem needs to be protected. All the trees - everything from frogs to fish.
- Land use - - - related to fish resources where economically possible.
- As well as other wildlife.
- You can try. But I doubt if you will succeed.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Pine Dock, Swan River and Winnipeg.

- 4.2(a) Agree - enforce existing regulations.
- 4.2(b) Agree.
- 4.2(c) Agree.
- 4.2(d) Agree.
- 4.2(e) Agree.
- Would like to see off-stream cattle watering facilities expanded.
- Need to keep cattle off stream banks. Should be supplying farmers with financial assistance / funds to develop more offstream watering capabilities.
- Riding Mountain National park considered as a source of disease, etc. for farming areas outside of the park.
- Reference made to Giardia and to TB in elk.
- Referred to deadfalls in streams, beaver dams and stagnant water causing problems.
- Concern with management of Riding Mountain National Park ecosystem. Park management under federal jurisdiction and appear to have no concern with surrounding areas which are under provincial and municipal jurisdictions.
- Pig farm waste . Hydro development affects prevailing currents.
- More done to enforce farmers into clearing up the poor land management.
- A lot of this could be helped by education.
- More help for the farmers such as the availability of manual nose pumps
- More stakeholder groups to help determine what needs to be done by getting information across to each other (co-management).
- Not clear on what statement is attempting to convey. Is it all said in 4.2(e)?

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comment was recorded at the workshop in Garden Hill.

- Could not make money under the FFMC.
- Treaty rights disputed - domestic and commercial giving / selling fish.

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.3:

Fish resource plans shall be prepared and shall consider, address and integrate relevant ecological, environmental, health, social and economic factors.

Applications: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.3a Prepare and implement, as part of a fish resource system plan, integrated management plans and ecosystem based management plans when acceptable methodologies are developed for fish resources and for watersheds or lake systems, as required, that:

- *a. include and address environmental, health, social, economic and resource sustainability factors,*
- *b. establish, as appropriate, indicator species, and*
- *c. provide for public participation, including the Aboriginal community and stakeholders in defining values and establishing goals and objectives.*

4.3b Prepare and implement, as required, specific fish species plans for those species at risk or requiring special attention due to their heritage, social, environmental or economic significance.

4.3c Review and amend, as required, legislation governing the planning and management of fish resource to:

- *a. incorporate the principles and guidelines of sustainable development;*
- *b. eliminate duplication and overlapping functions;*
- *c. simplify and clarify resource maintenance and protection functions.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.3

Agree - 83%   Neutral - 15%   Disagree - 2%

- As above, sounds like a make work project for another government official to collect our tax dollars.
- Your "legalize" is not relevant. Where to fore the average soul can discern it. You don't have to write so effleurent, get to the point!
- This will be part of a plan for the future assurance that this will not be a waste.
- Fish resource plans should rely on as accurate data that can be obtained. The more accurate the data the better structured the plans could be.
- Especially restoration of or redevelopment of natural course streams (drainage ditches).
- This policy seems to be a review of the others, with just a few more things thrown in, which really have been mentioned before.
- Policies 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 relatively alike, compared to some of the other multi-faceted policies.
- Cannot be done quickly enough.
- Question: Where will staff and funding come from for all this? Can the province bear the burden?
- These things are intertwined.
- Sound good - when in fact - - - .

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Swan River and Winnipeg.

- 4.3(a) Agree.
- 4.3(b) Agree.
- 4.3(c) Agree.
- Fishing is therapeutic to people's health and cannot be shut down without compromising commercial fishing.

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.3:

Fish resource plans shall be prepared and shall consider, address and integrate relevant ecological, environmental, health, social and economic factors.

Applications: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.3a Prepare and implement, as part of a fish resource system plan, integrated management plans and ecosystem based management plans when acceptable methodologies are developed for fish resources and for watersheds or lake systems, as required, that:

  a. include and address environmental, health, social, economic and resource sustainability factors,

  b. establish, as appropriate, indicator species, and

  c. provide for public participation, including the Aboriginal community and stakeholders in defining values and establishing goals and objectives.

4.3b Prepare and implement, as required, specific fish species plans for those species at risk or requiring special attention due to their heritage, social, environmental or economic significance.

4.3c Review and amend, as required, legislation governing the planning and management of fish resource to:

  a. incorporate the principles and guidelines of sustainable development;

  b. eliminate duplication and overlapping functions;

  c. simplify and clarify resource maintenance and protection functions.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.3

Agree - 85% Neutral - 13% Disagree - 2%

- As above, sounds like a make work project for another government official to collect our tax dollars.
- Your "legalize" is not relevant. Where to fore the average soul can discern it. You don't have to write so effleurent, get to the point!
- This will be part of a plan for the future assurance that this will not be a waste.
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- These things are intertwined.
- Sound good - when in fact - - - .

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Swan River and Winnipeg.

- 4.3(a) Agree.
- 4.3(b) Agree.
- 4.3(c) Agree.
- Fishing is therapeutic to people's health and cannot be shut down without compromising commercial fishing.

- Everyone should have a licence in order to share the fish with everyone.
- Fishing has to be more available to everyone.
- Try to promote fishing as an inexpensive sport to encourage normal Joe Blow to fish.
- Need to have trained staff in place to move forward on these projects / ideas / concepts. Also, resources?

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Brandon and Snow Lake.

- Fishermen with Fish and Game Association concerned about over-regulation. Too many regulations that are too confusing and too expensive.
- E.g., if we go to leech permits and requirement to throw out leeches after some time limit - very expensive for anglers.
- Have to get people fishing again. Father-in-law has quit fishing because he looks at all the rules and says "Forget it!"
- Concern over cormorants.
- Walleye fisheries in Wekusko Lake. Limit on Wekusko Lake reduced for anglers. What about commercial fishery?
- Poor mismanagement when we knew about poor spawning classes.
- Formed Wekusko Lake Management Committee to develop a plan and have pamphlet of plan.
- Walleye fisheries: used to be primary resource, now tourists complaining.
- Are there other lakes with anglers, commercial fishing and cormorants experiencing this decline as well.
- Other multiple use lakes - Dauphin Lake for example.
- Stocks will naturally oscillate depending on spawning success.
- What amount test netting needed to establish quotas: As recreational fishing increased quotas have been reduced. Wekusko Lake considered a high priority and is test netted every year to monitor. Have historical production recorder back to 1930's.
- When was quota last set and how has it changed. Very high historically.
- Fishery: Control lake water levels so don't get bad water years.

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.4:

The general public, fish users, government and non-government agencies shall be involved in the preparation and review of fish resource management plans and decisions.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.4a *Provide meaningful opportunities for the Aboriginal community, public and user groups participation in the fish resource planning processes by:*

a. giving all participants an equitable opportunity to participate and influence plans and decisions,

b. ensuring timely and prior notification to those affected,

c. providing timely access to relevant information.

4.4b *Develop mechanisms for ensuring public review of significant fish resource management practices that effect the sustainability of the fish resources.*

4.4c *Require provincial government departmental review of specific fish resource plans.*

4.4d *Ensure decision making processes are clearly defined and made known to resource users and the public.*

4.4e *Develop and implement clear and consistent processes and mechanisms for dispute resolution for conflicts between competing users and the development and protection of fish resources. Consultation and negotiation shall be the preferred method of conflict resolution.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.4

Agree - 83% **Neutral - 8%** **Disagree - 9%**

- General public is not well enough informed for such purposes.
- Those with vested interests in fishing should have priority.
- Management plans and decisions should be made by the people closest to and the most dependent on the resource, not by the uninformed general public.
- Agree with all of the above but exclude the general public (page 7 objective 4). General public are not aware of the issues.
- Fish users and government only.
- This will allow the view points of all parties involved to have a democratic say or vote as to the future decisions for this resource as to management, economic, industries, etc.
- The important factors here: 1. all participate in decisions; 2. timely notification (plenty of notification) and 3. timely accessed relevant information.
- Lodges and outfitters and Manitoba Hydro should be supplying and stocking fishes.
- Providing this can be done in an efficient manner, with government clearly retaining decision making authority.
- Commercial fishermen who make their living should have more say as to what happens in fishing industry.
- Again, this information seems already to be covered.
- I think that the public should have the largest choice due to the government being easily swayed by large corporations promising jobs.
- More activists!
- Commercial fishermen should have more of a say as they make their lives doing it.
- Too many government agencies will only complicate things. The simpler way to run things would be run by fishermen and 1 government office.
- Don't forget Manitoba Wildlife Federation when consulting. Thank you !
- Everyone involved, even the buyers and the economic and tourist industries. (Still affects them too.)
- See Objective (4), i.e., But ultimately decisions must be based on valid, scientific biological information.
- Some fishing practices done by native people should be addressed as to time of year.
- I agree if all these agencies all work together for the same goal.
- In this instance the public in general and commercial uses were not adequately informed of these meetings.
- I agree as long as the involvement of so many parties does not create a quagmire of bureaucracy which bogs down plans and decision for long periods of time.
- The public should know what is going on but often the professionals have to make the decisions.
- Recreational anglers too!
- If you have too many parties you'll never reach a good common decision.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshop in Ashern, Pine Dock, Swan River, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- 4.4(a) Agree.
- 4.4(b) Agree the public is often not aware of the information.
- 4.4(c) Agree.
- 4.4(d) Agree.
- 4.4(e) The different groups as it stands work independently and often tension and false rumours are spread. Meetings of the groups must meet in conference fashion utilizing a mediator, facilitator.
- 4.4(d) Remove political interference from decision making.
- Consultation to everyone who uses fish.
- Involvement by everyone to government and non-government cooperation.
- More enforcement.
- Better management / consultation with group / community.
- Comments overlap - don't we have some of these policies in place? Let's utilize.
- Staffing and resources again?

- Everyone should have a licence in order to share the fish with everyone.
- Fishing has to be more available to everyone.
- Try to promote fishing as an inexpensive sport to encourage normal Joe Blow to fish.
- Need to have trained staff in place to move forward on these projects / ideas / concepts. Also, resources?

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- Walleye fisheries in Wekusko Lake. Limit on Wekusko Lake reduced for anglers. What about commercial fishery?
- Poor mismanagement when we knew about poor spawning classes.
- Formed Wekusko Lake Management Committee to develop a plan and have pamphlet of plan.
- Walleye fisheries: used to be primary resource, now tourists complaining.
- Are there other lakes with anglers, commercial fishing and cormorants experiencing this decline as well.
- Other multiple use lakes - Dauphin Lake for example.
- Stocks will naturally oscillate depending on spawning success.
- What amount test netting needed to establish quotas: As recreational fishing increased quotas have been reduced. Wekusko Lake considered a high priority and is test netted every year to monitor. Have historical production recorder back to 1930's.
- When was quota last set and how has it changed. Very high historically.
- Fishery: Control lake water levels so don't get bad water years.

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.4:

The general public, fish users, government and non-government agencies shall be involved in the preparation and review of fish resource management plans and decisions.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.4a *Provide meaningful opportunities for the Aboriginal community, public and user groups participation in the fish resource planning processes by:*

  a. *giving all participants an equitable opportunity to participate and influence plans and decisions,*

  b. *ensuring timely and prior notification to those affected,*

  c. *providing timely access to relevant information.*

4.4b *Develop mechanisms for ensuring public review of significant fish resource management practices that effect the sustainability of the fish resources.*

4.4c *Require provincial government departmental review of specific fish resource plans.*

4.4d *Ensure decision making processes are clearly defined and made known to resource users and the public.*

4.4e *Develop and implement clear and consistent processes and mechanisms for dispute resolution for conflicts between competing users and the development and protection of fish resources. Consultation and negotiation shall be the preferred method of conflict resolution.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.4

- General public is not well enough informed for such purposes.
- Those with vested interests in fishing should have priority.
- Management plans and decisions should be made by the people closest to and the most dependent on the resource, not by the uninformed general public.
- Agree with all of the above but exclude the general public (page 7 objective 4). General public are not aware of the issues.
- Fish users and government only.
- This will allow the view points of all parties involved to have a democratic say or vote as to the future decisions for this resource as to management, economic, industries, etc.
- The important factors here: 1. all participate in decisions; 2. timely notification (plenty of notification) and 3. timely accessed relevant information.
- Lodges and outfitters and Manitoba Hydro should be supplying and stocking fishes.
- Providing this can be done in an efficient manner, with government clearly retaining decision making authority.
- Commercial fishermen who make their living should have more say as to what happens in fishing industry.
- Again, this information seems already to be covered.
- I think that the public should have the largest choice due to the government being easily swayed by large corporations promising jobs.
- More activists!
- Commercial fishermen should have more of a say as they make their lives doing it.
- Too many government agencies will only complicate things. The simpler way to run things would be run by fishermen and 1 government office.
- Don't forget Manitoba Wildlife Federation when consulting. Thank you !
- Everyone involved, even the buyers and the economic and tourist industries. (Still affects them too.)
- See Objective (4), i.e., But ultimately decisions must be based on valid, scientific biological information.
- Some fishing practices done by native people should be addressed as to time of year.
- I agree if all these agencies all work together for the same goal.
- In this instance the public in general and commercial uses were not adequately informed of these meetings.
- I agree as long as the involvement of so many parties does not create a quagmire of bureaucracy which bogs down plans and decision for long periods of time.
- The public should know what is going on but often the professionals have to make the decisions.
- Recreational anglers too!
- If you have too many parties you'll never reach a good common decision.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshop in Ashern, Pine Dock, Swan River, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- 4.4(a) Agree.
- 4.4(b) Agree the public is often not aware of the information.
- 4.4(c) Agree.
- 4.4(d) Agree.
- 4.4(e) The different groups as it stands work independently and often tension and false rumours are spread. Meetings of the groups must meet in conference fashion utilizing a mediator, facilitator.
- 4.4(d) Remove political interference from decision making.
- Consultation to everyone who uses fish.
- Involvement by everyone to government and non-government cooperation.
- More enforcement.
- Better management / consultation with group / community.
- Comments overlap - don't we have some of these policies in place? Let's utilize.
- Staffing and resources again?

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Pine Dock, Thompson, and Wabowden.

- 4.4(d) Remove political decisions in fisheries management. Public consultations needed before regulations posed. Legislation- fairly and province-wide. Currents have changed in Lake Winnipeg 8-mile channel impacts. 90% of the time south current. Compensation for other areas, Norway House, Grand Rapids, why not other areas.
- Want to be part of decision making.
- How to communicate to users. City folk have little credibility.
- Access to information to make informed decisions. Spring angling late.
- Co-management - mostly administrative
- Good process but want more meaningful outputs.
- Cormorant Board - work on fishermen's licences / allocations.
- Local Planning Authority re - Management Boards need to be recognized when Land Use Planning is completed.
- Communication and improving with Natural Resources, "used to take off when we saw them coming now we invite them for coffee".

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.5:

Research and effective information management systems shall be used to improve the information base and support fish resource planning and decision making.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.5a Upgrade existing automated information and data management systems.

4.5b Pursue cooperative agreements, including partnerships with Fisheries and Oceans, industry and other agencies in the research, development and enhancement of fish resource data bases and information systems.

4.5c Conduct inventories and input data into information systems and monitor and report on the status of, including but not limited to fish habitats, stocks, water quality and quantity.

4.5d Establish partnerships and encourage and facilitate research and consultations with Aboriginal peoples, communities and individuals on traditional and local ecological knowledge and integrate that knowledge into data bases.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.5

Agree - 93% **Neutral - 6%** **Disagree - 2%**

- Research with fishermen, Aboriginals and those active with fishing is HI. Not another overpaid, overeducated soul who doesn't know what a fish looks like.
- Policy 3.5 (c) is a direct conflict with policy 4.5(b)! I emphasize that this isn't likely to be possible with the present depleted ranks of fishery biologists in both government and private agencies. We need to train and employ more fisheries people!
- This will prevent us from over fishing.
- The issue here is collect as accurate information as can be had.
- A little mother-hoody.
- There has been so much research over the years, it is time to act now.
- Inventories and research are beneficial.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Pine Dock, Thompson, and Wabowden.

- 4.4(d) Remove political decisions in fisheries management. Public consultations needed before regulations posed. Legislation- fairly and province-wide. Currents have changed in Lake Winnipeg 8-mile channel impacts. 90% of the time south current. Compensation for other areas, Norway House, Grand Rapids, why not other areas.
- Want to be part of decision making.
- How to communicate to users. City folk have little credibility.
- Access to information to make informed decisions. Spring angling late.
- Co-management - mostly administrative
- Good process but want more meaningful outputs.
- Cormorant Board - work on fishermen's licences / allocations.
- Local Planning Authority re - Management Boards need to be recognized when Land Use Planning is completed.
- Communication and improving with Natural Resources, "used to take off when we saw them coming now we invite them for coffee".

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.5:

Research and effective information management systems shall be used to improve the information base and support fish resource planning and decision making.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.5a *Upgrade existing automated information and data management systems.*

4.5b *Pursue cooperative agreements, including partnerships with Fisheries and Oceans, industry and other agencies in the research, development and enhancement of fish resource data bases and information systems.*

4.5c *Conduct inventories and input data into information systems and monitor and report on the status of, including but not limited to fish habitats, stocks, water quality and quantity.*

4.5d *Establish partnerships and encourage and facilitate research and consultations with Aboriginal peoples, communities and individuals on traditional and local ecological knowledge and integrate that knowledge into data bases.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.5

[illegible]

- Research with fishermen, Aboriginals and those active with fishing is HI. Not another overpaid, overeducated soul who doesn't know what a fish looks like.
- Policy 3.5 (c) is a direct conflict with policy 4.5(b)! I emphasize that this isn't likely to be possible with the present depleted ranks of fishery biologists in both government and private agencies. We need to train and employ more fisheries people!
- This will prevent us from over fishing.
- The issue here is collect as accurate information as can be had.
- A little mother-hoody.
- There has been so much research over the years, it is time to act now.
- Inventories and research are beneficial.

- Need money for research. Money is required for research. Research is necessary on an ongoing basis in the bigger lakes in particular. Need research in producing fingerlings in pickerel. Need research where lakes stocked with fry can be more successful pertaining to survival of the fry.
- Things need done [doing?], we need to do it, research, plan, involve those who want to, yet at the same time once it has been done, not drag it one for years.
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans should be involved in studies or monies for studies.
- Agree, if it is an acceptable plan that does work.
- In concern with industry representatives.
- Don't spend a lot of money on brochures, etc. Almost all end up in garbage.

- 4.5(d) It would be a good idea to include local knowledge in the database. Long time users in an area would provide valuable information pertaining to historical trends in the local fish populations, etc.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Pine Dock, Swan River, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- 4.5(a) Agree.
- 4.5(b) Agree.
- 4.5(c) Agree - increase funding.
- 4.5(d) Agree.
- 4.5(d) Consult Aboriginals, communities on traditional and local knowledge and integrate into data base.
- There has to be a commitment for funding to fisheries (such as funding for licence).
- We need more Natural Resources (staff) to see what is going on for monitoring.
- More pollution control.
- Better scientific information and management.
- A lot of issues can be addressed with better management and consultation with groups / communities.
- 4.5(b) Contradicts itself with comments in 3.5(c). Staffing / education / resources?
- Agree with other comments. Where does education / staffing / resources come from?

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Garden Hill, Norway House and Thompson.

- Are studies being done on fish quality, effects of hydro dams, and impacts that commercial fisheries are having on quality of fish.
- Sewage and waste not dealt with properly when commercial fisheries started in 1958.
- Impact assessment on lake. Exotics, Hydro and users . . . and affects on communities.
- Season prior to spawning need better monitoring information.

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.6:

Manitoba shall work towards a provincial accounting system which includes and reports on the natural capital, including fish resources, of the province.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.6a Establish partnerships and encourage research into mechanisms to accurately assess the value of and the improvement or deterioration of provincial natural resources including fish resources.

4.6b Partner with and encourage and support the efforts of the federal government in the development of national accounting processes and mechanisms to monitor and track the value of Canada's natural resources including fish resources.

4.6c Establish, adopt and regularly report on sustainability indicators which account for the value of provincial natural resources, including fish.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.6

- Sounds like a waste of money to me.
- Sounds like another make work project.
- To who?
- Must include treaty peoples, etc.
- (a,b) Partner with whom? c) Is this any more than paper-pushing? What good is it?
- I don't like the idea of putting a dollars and cents value on our wildlife resource.
- This can be helpful to all parties by putting all the cards on the table so we can see what there is and what there is not.
- Accurate information will help the provincial accounting system.
- What would doing this cause to happen?
- Manitoba has all kinds of research over the years but it seems that all Manitoba wants to do is to keep spending the tax payers dollars and do nothing.
- Tax?
- The more people involved the better.
- Government take-over nothing for Manitoba.
- Great idea, however it will be difficult in the north.
- Only if it can be done at no additional cost to the taxpayer.
- Identify problem spots.
- Good idea. Politicians and accountants can understand $ issues.
- With a caveat that we do not look entirely at the resource with $ in our eyes.
- I hope this doesn't turn out to be an administrative giant where high priced executives can't make a common sense decision.

- Would hope this system would remain completely honest.
- Is this possible without a huge staff and budget?
- I am neutral because costs have to be considered. These things are important but be careful as they can become top heavy and paper shuffling occurs, expenses escalate.
- Only if it is shown we can only live off interest of fish produced to ensure future principle fish are there.
- If you keep numbers of fish and where they are many areas will become over fished.
- We don't want huge bureaucracy.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern and Winnipeg.

- 4.6(a) Agree, i.e., development of rearing ponds visit research stations in U.S. and other provinces. We feel the fish resource has been substantially diminished. Measures must be taken to stop demise of stocks.
- 4.6(b) Agree.
- 4.6(c) Agree. Make this type of information readily available to all levels of people involved with the resource. Statistics should be published for all to read.
- Agree in principle.

SUGGESTED POLICY 4.7:

Fish resource planning and management legislation shall facilitate economic development without compromising resource sustainability, while maximizing administrative efficiency and compliance.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

4.7a Review and amend, as required, legislation to ensure there are reasonable opportunities for sustainable economic development of fish resources.

4.7b Review and amend planning and management legislation, as required,

- *a. to incorporate the principles and guidelines of sustainable development;*
- *b. to eliminate duplication and overlapping functions;*
- *c. to simplify and clarify resource maintenance and protection functions; and*
- *d. to ensure maximum administrative efficiency, enforceability and compliance.*

4.7c Provide appropriate public consultation in the review of legislation.

4.7d Enforce legislation fairly and reasonably across the province.

4.7e Negotiate the appropriate levels of delegation of authority for the management of fish resources from Canada to Manitoba.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.7

- There are already enough rules and regulations without implementing duplicates as a lot of your applications are.
- Administrative compliance is not exactly fair to all areas of Lake Winnipeg.
- Proposal #4: You have to have your lawyer present when you choose to read the fishing regulations. Can't you write in plain, laymen's language to avoid confusion! Tourists have one heck of a time when they come and then mistakes are made! Wenn Du schriehst a beaucoup des langues cequi viele menschen nicht verstehen kunn. AK BOHE Zoghla pozomiume? Try understanding that! That is how your regulations read!
- Drop "while maximizing administration efficiency and compliance".
- I like to keep the Federal government involved.

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Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.6

Agree - 74% Neutral - 21% Disagree - 4%

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4.7e Negotiate the appropriate levels of delegation of authority for the management of fish resources from Canada to Manitoba.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 4.7

Agree - 77%   Neutral - 16%   Disagree - 7%

- There are already enough rules and regulations without implementing duplicates as a lot of your applications are.
- Administrative compliance is not exactly fair to all areas of Lake Winnipeg.
- Proposal #4: You have to have your lawyer present when you choose to read the fishing regulations. Can't you write in plain, laymen's language to avoid confusion! Tourists have one heck of a time when they come and then mistakes are made! Wenn Du schriehst a beaucoup des langues cequi viele menschen nicht verstehen kunn. AK BOHE Zoghla pozomiume? Try understanding that! That is how your regulations read!
- Drop "while maximizing administration efficiency and compliance".
- I like to keep the Federal government involved.

- (d) Again, people are needed to do this, there are far too few Natural Resource Officers in Manitoba to do more than token enforcement of existing legislation. Sufficient numbers of enforcement personnel (Natural Resource Officers) to implement and enforce the regulations developed.
- This will hopefully protect the fishermen and women as to get a fair price for their fish.
- Provided that economic development isn't another word for commercial development.
- The important issue here is the appropriate public consultation in review of legislation.
- Why do we say things like this?
- The resource should be used, not depleted.
- ? Too many big words.
- [Underlined "maximizing administrative efficiency"] I hope this means what it says.
- In Policy (4.6) four and this question one would certainly hope that administration isn't going to become too costly!
- Administrative efficiency and cost can be a concern.
- We don't want to maximize bureaucracy.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Pine Dock and Winnipeg.

- 4.7(a) Ensure that all groups manage the resource in an equitable manner and adhere to policies created by all groups to ensure sustainable development.
- 4.7(b) We agree with suggestions a,b,c,d.
- 4.7(c) The workbook on fish addresses this.
- 4.7(d) Agree.
- 4.7(e) Must happen. Adamantly pursue this, amalgamate levels when possible.
- Public consultation in reviewing legislation.
- Enforce legislation fairly and reasonably.
- 4.7(d) Not enough people in place now.
- 4.7(e) Needs to be looked at further.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Dauphin, Flin Flon, Garden Hill, Pine Dock and Wabowden.

- Angling this spring on Lake Manitoba was better than for a long time.
- Need more enforcement. Guys were walking out with over 120 pickerel at Peonan Point.
- Main issue is greed. People in all fisheries don't obey the rules. Lake Manitoba has many access points. It's hard to enforce.
- TIP line - people don't call because they don't want to squeal on their friends.
- Garbage at fishing sites - littering fine is not high enough and needs more education.
- Spring spawning walleye harvests primarily by First Nation nets.
- Fish plant; how does government know what goes through the plant. Proper record keeping is required. Concerned about an "all season road" and impacts on community. Quality of water concerns. Cutting logs a concern. Cleaning up lake from sawmill and sawdust.
- Whitefish fleet quota trading when fish not sold - no one to check on trade records / loadslips.
- Fillet fish on the lake.
- Fished a week after and before season. Told ... but never heard anything back.
- Weather effects / human disturb fisheries specifically spawning.
- Resources set mesh size proper will ensure fish always there.
- Undersized mesh will destroy

M121

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Policy Area 5. Public Awareness and Education

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 1:

To enhance Manitoban's understanding of the interrelationships among fish, the environment, human health, society and the economy.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 1

[redacted]

- Check pickerel spawning areas in spring to see how our Aboriginal community "promote" the sustainability of the resource!
- Newcomers s/a immigrants should also have to comply as we have witnessed blatant misuse, abuse and over harvest and "we don't speak English?" Fines speak many languages!
- In the end, an aware and concerned, informed public is the only effective constituency that fish (and wildlife) resources have.
- Educating Manitobans about the importance of the land and the natural resource will open a lot of eyes as to take better care of what we have.
- "Better information and easier access to information on fish issues needed to be provided". P.54. Could this information not be compiled and placed on an Internet Web Site for easy access. The education of the public can be enhanced by awarding certificates by appropriate agencies on the attainment of each level of information or getting on a provincial list that can be beneficial when it comes to issuing licences, benefits, merits, etc.
- Information related to this initiative should be continued, promoted and advertised.
- Among?
- Again, public awareness is essential.
- Make it realistic, easy for everyone to understand, basic, relate it to people, get to the main points, be honest!
- Good objective!
- Everyone listens if it is going to affect their health.
- If natives have first hand experience cultural values and information then why are they always testing to see what they can get away with, i.e., taking spawning walleye in the spring.
- Anglers need to learn the importance of picking up their garbage just for a beginning. They leave minnow containers, beverage cans, food wrappers and discarded fishing line everywhere.
- Pollution especially sewage can be a problem that must be addressed.
- More education is needed to show how to save the resource for future.
- No historic records exist in Manitoba showing that Aboriginal people ever practised conservation. Whether or not they have specialized knowledge in this area is questionable.
- A large undertaking.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Dauphin, Gimli, Portage la Prairie, Swan River and The Pas.

- Need to provide more information, incentive, encouragement, and assistance to landowners along waterways to enhance riparian areas and stream habitat.
- Yes.
- Good.
- What grade do you introduce educating people: junior high? Elementary / basic concepts; high school ? detailed biology, ecosystem management.

Policy Area 5. Public Awareness and Education

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 1:

To enhance Manitoban's understanding of the interrelationships among fish, the environment, human health, society and the economy.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 1

Agree - 87% Neutral - 12% Disagree - 1%

- Check pickerel spawning areas in spring to see how our Aboriginal community "promote" the sustainability of the resource!
- Newcomers s/a immigrants should also have to comply as we have witnessed blatant misuse, abuse and over harvest and "we don't speak English?" Fines speak many languages!
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- Yes.
- Good.
- What grade do you introduce educating people: junior high? Elementary / basic concepts; high school ? detailed biology, ecosystem management.

- Continue consulting users: other views opinions, not necessarily consumers, not only the ones actively involved.
- New media - interactive games or presentations keep interest
- Educate adults as well as youth. Adults are more active in the process presently.
- All groups, native and all cultures, Canadians and native have to be aware of the issue regarding the conservation of the fish resource.
- Has to be implemented in order for Manitobans to take ownership.
- Good management / communication between the province and the public, e.g., commercial / anglers management of the lake.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in South Indian Lake and Wabowden.

- Head of Hydro should come see people face to face and travel with fishermen to see what really occurs.
- Communication with Hydro poor, now that they've done their damage they sit in their offices.
- Need more field people to increase government awareness and even the Minister should spend more time in hydro affected areas to see impacts.
- Sturgeon Board comprises representatives from 5 communities and deals with status of sturgeon. They are communicating / educating to try and make a difference.

SUGGESTED POLICY 5.1:

Public involvement in and enhanced public knowledge about: 1. fish resources, 2. their finite capacity for use, 3. the effects of development activity upon fish and fish habitat and 4. the value of the fish resource to Manitoba's environmental, social and economic well being shall be promoted and fostered.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

5.1a Develop general sustainable development fish and wildlife information for listing as foundation materials for use by teachers to meet school science curricula outcomes. This material should be formatted to facilitate use and to allow youth to make informed decisions about fish resource conservation and use issues (i.e., "sharing a valuable resource").

5.1b Ensure information is presented in a clear, concise and user-friendly format and style.

5.1c Continue to discuss issues and consult with users to ensure they have an informed opportunity to contribute their opinion and to offer suggestions on management actions.

5.1d Explore and develop new media and venues including electronic means for disseminating information on the issues, value and benefits of fishing.

5.1e As necessary, develop communication plans to ensure the public has the opportunity to become informed on specific issues and provide sufficient resources to get the information out.

5.1f Regularly assess, document and make public, information on the status and sustainability of Manitoba's natural resources.

5.1g Establish mechanisms for conducting broad consultations with the general public respecting the effects and implications of the use of fish resources.

5.1h Provide for the exchange of information with the Aboriginal community on such topics as:

a. rights and obligations of Aboriginal and non-aboriginal people,

b. sustainability of the fish resource,

c. harvest rates,

d. best management and harvest practices.

5.1i Cooperate with educators at all levels in providing the necessary related skills and knowledge including biology, ecology and management of fish resources.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 5.1

Agree - 86% Neutral - 12% Disagree - 2%

- Must include treaty peoples, excluding the comments that they are an Ottawa problem.
- This should be promoted further so everyone can understand the importance of our fishing industries.
- Make this information available on an Internet Web Site.
- This seems of primary benefit to Fisheries Branch.
- Time to gain knowledge?
- Information should be clear and concise. We feel that this book would benefit greatly by adhering to these two principles. Not all of the public has background info. The material should be simple, without just throwing in a bunch of clauses or impressive sounding words when the simpler version would be much more effective, easier to understand and generally would make people look more favourably on the material. If a person feels that the authors are trying to sound superior and technical they will immediately be turned off and will probably disagree with everything said.
- A great "renewable" resource that is at time[s] underutilized and misunderstood, e.g., "coarse" fish.
- It would be nice if things like "Sea Doos" could be kept to confined areas. Have seen them in shallow waters killing minnows and generally churning up the lake. They chase geese and ducks that are nesting. People from the city could use a lot of training about their effects on the ecosystem!
- Let industry organize and promote this.
- 5.1d, Use the net! 5.1h More education in this area is very important.
- More education on the use and sustainable use of the resource. There is a good economic and social impact this resource as to Manitoba and all its people if it is managed properly for the betterment of all not just certain groups. After all is done we must remember we are only borrowing this resource off our children and grandchildren.
- We do at Silsby etc.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Flin Flon, Gimli, Lac du Bonnet, The Pas and Winnipeg.

- Development activity around the lake affects all aspects of the fishing industry.
- Spawning grounds are reduced and removed.
- Drainage projects bring in other fish species, that don't help fishing.
- 5.1(a) Education is vital - support this policy
- 5.1(h) Support this policy.
- 5.1(a) Yes.
- 5.1(b) Yes.
- 1.5(c) Yes.
- 1.5(d) Yes.
- 1.5(e) Yes.
- 1.5(f) Yes.
- 1.5(g) Yes.
- 1.5(h) Yes.
- 1.5(I) Yes.
- Public needs to know, as much as possible, population numbers for fish species.
- Fishers should have been consulted in phase one!
- Simplify fishing regulations, e.g., 2 pages of regulations on pickerel - standardize across the board.
- Timing of these meetings is poor - end of fishing season - March / April.
- If you don't enforce the laws take them off the books.
- Would like to see media coverage on fish
- Non-profit group in Winnipeg called Green Kids do "infomercials" with Global T.V. could approach them to do series on fish - fisheries enhancement initiative eligibility?
- Has to be an education budget for all natural resources.
- Need more staff and money for enforcement. Enforcement is a form of education

- Continue consulting users: other views opinions, not necessarily consumers, not only the ones actively involved.
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- Has to be an education budget for all natural resources.
- Need more staff and money for enforcement. Enforcement is a form of education

- You can come up with all the policies in the world but if you don't have the money to follow through its pointless.
- Green Kids has a theatre group that travels from school to school.
- Department of Natural Resources used to promote use of under-utilized species about 20 years ago.
- Put a limit on catfish.
- Open fires illegal yet fishing shows show campfire on shore.
- Better education and management of 1st Nation and all people of their young re: fishing.
- Agree with comments.
- 5.1(a) Consult with education department to assure that information meets criteria.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Brandon, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Gimli, Lac du Bonnet, Portage la Prairie, Thompson and Wabowden.

- Need more promotion of partnerships, e.g., Habitat Heritage Corporation. Working with people is the best way. Work with farmers.
- A united front of farmers and environmentalists would benefit the whole.
- Sometimes on opposite sides of the fence but as agriculture becomes more aware of natural resource concerns and vice versa, better understanding of each other and working together benefits all.
- People afraid of government dictating what they have to do. Need to work with people. Education, e.g., rotational grazing started out slowly and caught on, now very popular.
- Have to advertise not only the projects but 5 years down the line. What progress has there been? What are the success stories? Too easy to only look at the bad ones.
- Likes to hunt, fish, used to be a commercial fisherman - we are really all very similar.
- A lot of people don't want to see us do anything; not hunt, not fish, not use grass for cattle. Sitting down together is the best way.
- We are experiencing "globalization" yet there is still a "perimeter thing".
- Within the city's perimeter is where the votes are.
- 80% of the people have "no opinion". May not understand what you're doing.
- Humane treatment of fish - PETA
- Majority of agricultural producers have true appreciation for surrounding environment. Need to have better cooperation with working partnerships.
- Disagrees that there isn't a solution. Won't solve anything if we bury our heads in the sand and don't try to deal with things.
- Cattle industry initiated a grazing project. Ducks Unlimited said they didn't qualify for funding but would look at it. Decided to make an exception and now they have two solar pumping stations.
- If you show people that things can work, you will get more converts (if you work cooperatively). If you push, people will just push back.
- Have enough laws now and not enough people to enforce them.
- Need more biologists and game wardens on the front line.
- Need more promotion - more information.
- They found out about this meeting through their Game and Fish Association (which was having a meeting that night which is why only the two of them were out).
- Also, someone picked up a workbook at the Rural Forum in Brandon last week.
- Never saw anything on TV or in the paper.
- People never get out of the city.
- Outdoor Women's program is really good. Wife going this weekend.
- Learn to fish programs.
- Stocked our dugout. My daughters want to fish.
- Need field education.
- Don't mean to hammer on city people but that's where most of the people are.
- What about the schools? Why can't they take kids fishing for the day?

- Is there anything in the High Schools? My daughter is really interested in this kind of thing.
- If you want something in your school, it's not restricted. You can get it in if you take charge and volunteer to help.
- Tipline might help. Hard to catch people. Nail people who are buying. If people didn't buy the fish, people wouldn't poach. If they are First Nations especially, you can't do anything.
- Question about the viability of eggs in older fish. Amount of eggs in bigger fish, a 4-5 lb. trout produces about 100,000 eggs. Only 1-2% survival rate to end of first year.
- Do mullets spawn twice in one year? Found running eggs in some in the fall.[Response - No.]
- Lake Dauphin - Will jacks hurt pickerel stock? [Stocks go up and down.]
- Pike caught in derby in Lake Dauphin shipped to Lake Erwin.
- Now it is all carp in bays where there used to be jack. Although there's a few coming back now.
- Carp introduced - came from North Dakota - Sheyenne River.
- Bullheads getting more and more in number.
- In winter, perch almost come out of the hole when you cut it. Manitoba has a lot of dwarf perch populations.
- TIP line, people don't call because they don't want to squeal on their friends.
- Annual school contest for billboard promotion.
- Garbage at fishing sites; littering fine is not high enough and needs increased education.
- Spring spawning walleye harvests primarily by First Nations nets.
- Fishermen not consulted and he knows because he's on Board of Directors of FFMC.
- Cattle producers want their interests recognized.
- Those directly affected should be part of the decision making process. Local people need to be involved but not just any local people. It is the local people who are impacted who need to be involved, e.g., Lake Winnipegosis flooding at the Salt Point Bridge caused by diversion releases. Local people were asked for comment but they lived on the backshore, people who were in the lower floodplain and were impacted were not asked for comment yet they would have warned about potential problems.
- Lack of public awareness / education. Lots of areas not supervised. Limits exceeded. Regulations not being enforced. Trying to make up new regulations when you can't keep up with the old ones.
- How to communicate to users. City folk have little credibility.
- Education required re: status Indian angling and over harvest.

M121

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SUGGESTED POLICY 5.2:

Sustainable development of fish resources, environmentally sustainable management practices and the economic and social value of fish related industry and activity shall be promoted.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

5.2a Define, explain and inform Manitobans about their rights and obligations as users of fish resources and the sustainability of natural resources.

5.2b Establish partnerships to develop educational and informational programs and packages that provide up-to-date information on:

- *a. appropriate management practices (harvest and land use),*
- *b. appropriate harvest industry practices.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 5.2

- Treaty and indigenous human rights recognition must be a priority, without the above how can you move on, get your hands off their heads.
- Freshwater should not be the one to make all decisions on behalf of every fisherman and woman.
- Educate the public mainly the adults on the many aspects of the fish resources through information programs (printed on the Internet Web Site). The school age children would get their info at school.
- This has all been said already. We have already discussed partnerships and public information.
- With everything except promoting "economic value". A totally different issue than "social values". Any new strategy must include some type of angler harassment legislation to protect users. This would be truly a proactive move, because it will happen.
- Manitobans have to learn to treat natural resources like it was their own home. The environment must be kept safe from fires, poachers, damage and it must be kept clean!
- An increase in value will be reflected in increased industry.
- Carp fishing should also be promoted. Also possible uses of carp as a possible food source, cat food or something else.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Gimli, Portage la Prairie, Swan River and Winnipeg.

- 5.2(b) Fish enhancement projects on Ducks Unlimited projects.
- 5.2(a) Yes.
- 5.2(b) Yes.

- Use co-operative programs and incentives to enhance riparian management such as off-site watering and rotated grazing where practical. Voluntary programs. Showcase positive examples.
- 5.2b Learn from one another.
- Provide funding.
- Make "you" accountable. Accountability will improve number of projects followed through.
- Partnerships important because we learn from one another. Everyone has different opinions, but we have to work together and respect each other's viewpoints.
- The funds have to be equally distributed for enhancement projects all over the province, although we realize that there are certain areas that are in more danger and require more attention for preservation and conservation.
- Agree with comments.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshop in Portage la Prairie.

- 5.2(a) In riparian areas enhance management practices, do it on a voluntary basis, showcase positive examples, and keep funding coming.
- Cormorants have increased. For example, Lake Winnipegosis fishery problems are that there are no small fish. Big fish only have crayfish in their stomachs so the food chain has been broken. The cormorants are now attacking Lake Manitoba because Lake Winnipegosis is out of food. Lake Manitoba fishermen want a study on Lake Manitoba done. They got $20,000 last year and are planning a study this year. They want to know what they (the cormorants) are harvesting...ruled out previous Lake Winnipegosis studies. There were no walleyes in cormorant stomachs in that study because there were no walleyes left. Lake Manitoba fishermen want a study done. The federal government did not come through with matched study funds - yet. The fishermen are still waiting.

SUGGESTED POLICY 5.3:

Understanding and respect of differing economic and social views, values, traditions and aspirations respecting fish resource use shall be promoted.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

5.3a Ensure general information and extension programs:

  a. include information on the rights of Status Indians regarding their values, traditions and use of fish resources and

  b. are designed to explain effects and implications of land and resource use on fish resources and habitat.

5.3b Develop partnerships to cooperatively establish programs for the exchange of information with Aboriginal peoples, other cultural groups and new Canadians respecting their use of fish resources and habitat.

5.3c Ensure government staff undertake the necessary training and gain an appreciation and understanding of the differing economic and social views, values, traditions and aspirations of the Aboriginal community with respect to the use, management and protection of fish resources.

SUGGESTED POLICY 5.2:

Sustainable development of fish resources, environmentally sustainable management practices and the economic and social value of fish related industry and activity shall be promoted.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

5.2a Define, explain and inform Manitobans about their rights and obligations as users of fish resources and the sustainability of natural resources.

5.2b Establish partnerships to develop educational and informational programs and packages that provide up-to-date information on:

- *a. appropriate management practices (harvest and land use),*
- *b. appropriate harvest industry practices.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 5.2

Agree - 87%% Neutral - 11% Disagree - 2%

- Treaty and indigenous human rights recognition must be a priority, without the above how can you move on, get your hands off their heads.
- Freshwater should not be the one to make all decisions on behalf of every fisherman and woman.
- Educate the public mainly the adults on the many aspects of the fish resources through information programs (printed on the Internet Web Site). The school age children would get their info at school.
- This has all been said already. We have already discussed partnerships and public information.
- With everything except promoting "economic value". A totally different issue than "social values". Any new strategy must include some type of angler harassment legislation to protect users. This would be truly a proactive move, because it will happen.
- Manitobans have to learn to treat natural resources like it was their own home. The environment must be kept safe from fires, poachers, damage and it must be kept clean!
- An increase in value will be reflected in increased industry.
- Carp fishing should also be promoted. Also possible uses of carp as a possible food source, cat food or something else.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Gimli, Portage la Prairie, Swan River and Winnipeg.

- 5.2(b) Fish enhancement projects on Ducks Unlimited projects.
- 5.2(a) Yes.
- 5.2(b) Yes.

- Use co-operative programs and incentives to enhance riparian management such as off-site watering and rotated grazing where practical. Voluntary programs. Showcase positive examples.
- 5.2b Learn from one another.
- Provide funding.
- Make "you" accountable. Accountability will improve number of projects followed through.
- Partnerships important because we learn from one another. Everyone has different opinions, but we have to work together and respect each other's viewpoints.
- The funds have to be equally distributed for enhancement projects all over the province, although we realize that there are certain areas that are in more danger and require more attention for preservation and conservation.
- Agree with comments.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshop in Portage la Prairie.

- 5.2(a) In riparian areas enhance management practices, do it on a voluntary basis, showcase positive examples, and keep funding coming.
- Cormorants have increased. For example, Lake Winnipegosis fishery problems are that there are no small fish. Big fish only have crayfish in their stomachs so the food chain has been broken. The cormorants are now attacking Lake Manitoba because Lake Winnipegosis is out of food. Lake Manitoba fishermen want a study on Lake Manitoba done. They got $20,000 last year and are planning a study this year. They want to know what they (the cormorants) are harvesting...ruled out previous Lake Winnipegosis studies. There were no walleyes in cormorant stomachs in that study because there were no walleyes left. Lake Manitoba fishermen want a study done. The federal government did not come through with matched study funds - yet. The fishermen are still waiting.

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Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

5.3a Ensure general information and extension programs:

- *a. include information on the rights of Status Indians regarding their values, traditions and use of fish resources and*
- *b. are designed to explain effects and implications of land and resource use on fish resources and habitat.*

5.3b Develop partnerships to cooperatively establish programs for the exchange of information with Aboriginal peoples, other cultural groups and new Canadians respecting their use of fish resources and habitat.

5.3c Ensure government staff undertake the necessary training and gain an appreciation and understanding of the differing economic and social views, values, traditions and aspirations of the Aboriginal community with respect to the use, management and protection of fish resources.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 5.3

Agree - 77% **Neutral - 15%** **Disagree - 8%**

- I have no negative feelings regarding Aboriginal fishing for their own use, except during the spawning season. However I do object to their selling fish to the general public.
- We are all "one". Rules for "rich", "poor", "native"?!
- My view as an Aboriginal is traditional along with my values, beliefs and ethics on fishing and along with the respect of fish itself.
- Educate the public mainly the adults on the exchange of information of the different cultural groups, respecting their use of fish resources and habitat.
- This sounds good but some "values and traditions" have a detrimental effect on fish resources.
- We think this focuses too much on the Aboriginals. Or was that the point? What about everyone else? Aren't they just as important.
- Sounds like a great waste of money and resources.
- With this in mind, natives must also appreciate where and why the sportsman is coming from.
- Only if the views are valid and not based on racial grounds.
- Don't understand question.
- Wording not clear. Don't understand question.
- Full agreement that much training and education is required where fish resources and habitat is concerned.
- Where possible.
- The dynamics of increased population, access, equipment, etc. has to be part of this equation.
- All Manitobans should be treated equally.
- Conservation is not a tradition amongst northern residents, especially natives and resource industry workers, mining and logging. Need education!
- All peoples must learn that it is not in the fishery resource interest if all groups do not work together.
- All groups listed need to know that our fish resources are fragile and need to be looked after.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at workshops in Ashern, Gimli, Swan River and Winnipeg.

- Aboriginal peoples have a right to fish for their own use, and strictly their own use.
- Spawning grounds should be off limits for all fishing, during spawning season.
- All forms of poaching should be enforced.
- 5.3(aa) Yes.
- 5.3(ab) Yes.
- 5.3(b) Yes.
- 5.3(c) Yes.
- Less "mistakes" when ideas discussed are not carried out, through to the field work.
- Our group believes that all government staff should understand all concepts discussed and the rationale behind them so that they are familiar with the differing economic and social views, values and traditions with respect to the use, management and protection of fish resources. Less mistakes as such; will occur when ideas discussed in theory are not carried out practically.
- Agree with comments.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Garden Hill and South Indian Lake.

- Island Lake history: 1900's fishing for food. Alternated fish spots - conserve fishery. Fishing practices now questionable.
- 1900-1930 → little government interference. Elders had sustained their livelihoods.
- 1940 - 1960 → Government programs, a strong hold on the communities. Started regulating fishing and hunting rights. Natural Resources Transfer Act - reserves and people were not consulted properly.
- Passage of teachings of elders was blocked for the younger generation - puts blame on government assimilation - schools.
- Head of Hydro should come see people face to face and travel with fishermen to see what really occurs.

Policy Area 6. Human and Property Health and Safety

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVE 1:

To protect human life and property from the adverse effects of fish and fishing related activities.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 1

Agree - 76% **Neutral - 18%** **Disagree - 6%**

- I fished for over 30 years, I am unaware of any adverse effects of fishing. I think there must be an election soon.
- I agree with everything except regulating the winter commercial season for reasons stated.
- No one should be fishing if they don't know how or why they are fishing.
- ?
- Proper precautions and safety measures and procedures are a necessity. The education of the public can be enhanced by awarding certificates by appropriate agencies on the attainment of each level of information or getting on a provincial list that can be beneficial when it comes to issuing licences, benefits, merits, etc.
- Is this really an issue?
- It's usually fish that need protection!
- I wasn't aware fish posed a threat to human life.
- What are these "adverse effects"
- Not if the fish were there first.
- Fish know what is a healthy environment.
- This is not a responsibility of Department of Natural Resources. Leave them out of this.
- Don't understand.
- Wording not clear. Don't understand question.
- Identify "adverse" effects of angling to human life. A stretch at best!
- More information is required to settle disputes centred around who should and where to fish.
- The threat from fish and fishing related activities is extremely limited (excluding common sense things).
- There is not too much fish related dangers but fast boats and sea doos are a problem to be addressed. Some people go to lakes only to rip around and drink and these people are a problem.
- How do pickerel, sauger, etc. hurt people and property?

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Portage la Prairie and Thompson.

- All pollution should be monitored and people made aware of any problems.
- We as a group agree in principle with the suggested policies, however, we strongly recommend that the government implement their own policies.
- Both for Policy Area 1 and 6.
- Mercury is a concern.
- Mercury monitoring is ongoing, however there is not a lot of information being disseminated to the public.
- Commercial fishermen can't sell walleye from mercury lakes, but sport fishing is allowed still. Is this safe?
- Information on the normalization of mercury levels should be made available to resource users.
- Why do some lakes that are side by side have vastly different mercury levels? Theory: Lower lying areas have greater thawing of perma frost therefore higher mercury levels.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 5.3

[redacted]

- I have no negative feelings regarding Aboriginal fishing for their own use, except during the spawning season. However I do object to their selling fish to the general public.
- We are all "one". Rules for "rich", "poor", "native"?!
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Questionnaire Results and Comments on Objective 1

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- I agree with everything except regulating the winter commercial season for reasons stated.
- No one should be fishing if they don't know how or why they are fishing.
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- Proper precautions and safety measures and procedures are a necessity. The education of the public can be enhanced by awarding certificates by appropriate agencies on the attainment of each level of information or getting on a provincial list that can be beneficial when it comes to issuing licences, benefits, merits, etc.
- Is this really an issue?
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The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Portage la Prairie and Thompson.

- All pollution should be monitored and people made aware of any problems.
- We as a group agree in principle with the suggested policies, however, we strongly recommend that the government implement their own policies.
- Both for Policy Area 1 and 6.
- Mercury is a concern.
- Mercury monitoring is ongoing, however there is not a lot of information being disseminated to the public.
- Commercial fishermen can't sell walleye from mercury lakes, but sport fishing is allowed still. Is this safe?
- Information on the normalization of mercury levels should be made available to resource users.
- Why do some lakes that are side by side have vastly different mercury levels? Theory: Lower lying areas have greater thawing of perma frost therefore higher mercury levels.

- Need for more sampling so fishermen know how much mercury is in the fish they are catching.
- Whitefish on Churchill River have been downgraded by FFMC.
- FFMC is stuck on a grading system which is appropriate for their current market, however they are missing other markets (i.e., the Phillipines) where the lower grades are just as valuable.
- Whitefish roe is a good example where FFMC has missed the boat. The fish co-op obtained a permit to sell it.
- Fishermen have to pay for testing done on their catch.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Portage la Prairie and South Indian Lake.

- Policies 1 and 6 should be implemented and need to be enforced.
- Fish die off via unknown parasite of concern.
- Someone should take pictures of low water, kids are getting stuck in the mud along shore of Southern Indian Lake and docks are out of the water.

SUGGESTED POLICY 6.1:

Health information and proper fish handling procedures will be made available to ensure fish remains a healthy food source for Manitobans.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

6.1a *Monitor mercury levels in fish where flooding or other causative impacts have occurred and provide that information to the public.*

6.1b *Include safe fish handling practices in appropriate communication and informational programs*

6.1c *Provide consumption guidelines for fish where elevated levels of contamination have been identified.*

6.1d *Participate in the development of a national meat, poultry and fish code to ensure and promote the safety and quality of food sources.*

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 6.1

Agree - 95% Neutral - 4% Disagree - 1%

- In our last fishing derby last May long weekend we found fish with growths on them. I feel we should check these type of things out.
- But what about more effort toward reducing or eliminating the human contributions of pollution and contamination that can make aquatic organisms hazardous to eat? (And the water hazardous to be in contact with.)
- This will give everyone a better look at how to handle fish the right way and get the best quality of fish too.
- Protect human life, property in some cases, but farmland once wet and then dried up should not be considered farmland, and it should be allowed to be wet again with rising lake levels.
- The monitoring of mercury and any other potent chemicals in the fish resources and providing such information to the public would alert the public of possible complications.

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- Protect human life, property in some cases, but farmland once wet and then dried up should not be considered farmland, and it should be allowed to be wet again with rising lake levels.
- The monitoring of mercury and any other potent chemicals in the fish resources and providing such information to the public would alert the public of possible complications.

- Clean filleting stations that are properly equipped. Brushes, water pump, pail, garbage.
- Stress the risks of eating big fish with high mercury contamination.
- Being done.
- Being done.
- Top priority!
- Where have you been?
- Everyone (most people) is aware of the danger of mercury poisoning. What about road salt and chemicals from farmers' fields? Is industry being monitored close enough?
- Keep pollution to a minimum.
- Monitor for changes in the size of gonads and egg sacs. A decrease in size may suggest exposure to hormone disrupting chemicals.
- There should be more material made available for proper fish handling procedures.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Gimli, Pine Dock, Swan River and Winnipeg.

- Monitor the Assiniboine Diversion for all pollutants; pollution from farm land drainage, pollution from the increase in hog operations being built, pollution from cottage developments.
- Agree.
- Increase government resources to monitor health of waters and fish industry.
- Government needs to listen and act on our concerns.
- Too much bureaucratic / government interference deters effectiveness of monitoring policies.
- Where are environmental levies on products going? To environmental issues?
- Actual decision makers should be elected to the specific jobs. Don't appoint. People should have expertise in the area in which they work.
- In agreement to all. Plus a regular testing of all creeks or drainage ditches in the area of any hog industry.
- Fish fillet stations should be cleaner and more equipped.
- Monitor for pollutants of all sorts in fish and water.
- Agree.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded at workshops in Brandon, Pine Dock, South Indian Lake and Thompson.

- Barbless hooks - Saw a study done in the North West Territories on hooked versus barbless hooks and it said the fatality rate was about even. Would Manitoba consider going back to barbed hooks?
- Game and Fish against barbless. Hooks comes out easier. Have to set the hook and this makes it penetrate deeper, hurts the fish more.
- Why can't you buy barbless hooks? Why spend all this money on barbed hooks and then get blisters while you spend a lot of time pinching them down?
- Impacts of lagoons (pig) running into streams / rivers.
- Fish die off via unknown parasite of concern.
- Community health and well being diabetes, social problems, etc.

SUGGESTED POLICY 6.2:

Manitoba shall prevent or minimize the risk to property from the introduction of undesirable fish species and aquatic organisms such as zebra mussels and rainbow smelt.

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

6.2a Continue to educate the public on the costs associated with zebra mussel and rainbow smelt introduction and how to avoid unintentional transfer into Manitoba watersheds.

6.2b Investigate the feasibility and effectiveness of United States - Canada border car / boat wash stations to ensure undesirable fish species such as zebra mussels are not inadvertently brought into Manitoba.

6.2c Develop environmental regulations prohibiting the transfer of undesirable fish species such as zebra mussels into Manitoba.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 6.2

- Should watch rivers and streams more closely.
- Huh? We're going to minimize the risk to property but not minimize the risk of introduction? Egad!
- Fish should not be experimented on from one area to another because this can have a bad effect that we don't know about.
- Especially if you change word undesirable to "additional exotic".
- Constant attention of this possibility is required!
- It is not only zebra mussel and rainbow smelt but what about the U.S.A. Garrison Diversion Project to force unfamiliar species from the Missouri River System to enter the Red River System.
- Rainbow smelt: what is the problem? Purple loosestrife?
- Why are they so undesirable.
- Habitat and resources must be protected from negative outside influence.
- Please check purple loosestrife?
- No introduction of foreign species is ever safe.
- Keep Portage Diversion closed.
- This is where Department of Natural Resources should be involved.
- Identify problem at the beginning and prevent the spread.
- Don't forget to look at the bigger picture of watershed or ecosystem boundaries when dealing with bordering provinces.
- Just hope its not too late! The Assiniboine Diversion may already have done harm to Lake Manitoba. Where did the burbot, freshwater drum, mudpuppies come from? They weren't there before.

- These animal life are very dangerous and those who travel from lake to lake should be more careful in keeping their boats clean.
- Smelt may well be an asset to fisheries. They have been elsewhere.
- We need to do all that we can to ensure that undesirable fish species are kept out of Manitoba, especially from the USA.
- We need to enforce this and even make it law with stiff fines.
- I would hope boats from USA and Ontario, Quebec are screened crossing border.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Gimli, Pine Dock, Swan River and Winnipeg.

- We agree with these policies.
- Agree.
- More education is needed to make public aware of the negative effects (and benefits) of introduced species.
- In agreement to all.
- Prevent transfer of foreign species. Ensure species specific to an area stay in that area; do not get transported. Other species could also bring disease.
- Agree.

SUGGESTED POLICY 6.3: ***Safe recreational, domestic and commercial fishing practices shall be promoted.***

Application: To meet the intent of this policy, the Manitoba Round Table suggests the Manitoba Government:

6.3a Establish partnerships and encourage associated industries to develop training, education and information programs/literature on safe, environmentally sound fishing and boating practices.

6.3b Encourage Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Environment Canada to maintain or improve public safety by continued and enhanced coast guard, small craft harbours and weather information programs.

6.3c Require proponents of developments to anticipate, prevent or mitigate risks to health and safety of persons using water bodies and waterways, that may be negatively impacted by the proponent's development.

6.3d Regulate winter ice fishing to avoid unsafe ice and conditions.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 6.3

[illegible]

- With regards to regulate winter ice fishing (6.3d) this should apply to the general public and not to experienced commercial fishermen who need to get on the ice early, and know better than anyone whether the ice is safe or not.
- I fished commercially for over 30 years. I am fully aware of the risks involved, especially in the early part of winter when the ice is thin. However you can't pass laws against stupidity. There is already too dam many laws in this country.
- Were you bored! This has always been in place!
- It would be impossible to regulate the winter commercial season. The fishermen have to be able to decide when it is safe, there are many variables involved.

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6.2c Develop environmental regulations prohibiting the transfer of undesirable fish species such as zebra mussels into Manitoba.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 6.2

Agree - 96% **Neutral - 2%** **Disagree - 1%**

- Should watch rivers and streams more closely.
- Huh? We're going to minimize the risk to property but not minimize the risk of introduction? Egad!
- Fish should not be experimented on from one area to another because this can have a bad effect that we don't know about.
- Especially if you change word undesirable to "additional exotic".
- Constant attention of this possibility is required!
- It is not only zebra mussel and rainbow smelt but what about the U.S.A. Garrison Diversion Project to force unfamiliar species from the Missouri River System to enter the Red River System.
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- Just hope its not too late! The Assiniboine Diversion may already have done harm to Lake Manitoba. Where did the burbot, freshwater drum, mudpuppies come from? They weren't there before.

- These animal life are very dangerous and those who travel from lake to lake should be more careful in keeping their boats clean.
- Smelt may well be an asset to fisheries. They have been elsewhere.
- We need to do all that we can to ensure that undesirable fish species are kept out of Manitoba, especially from the USA.
- We need to enforce this and even make it law with stiff fines.
- I would hope boats from USA and Ontario, Quebec are screened crossing border.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Gimli, Pine Dock, Swan River and Winnipeg.

- We agree with these policies.
- Agree.
- More education is needed to make public aware of the negative effects (and benefits) of introduced species.
- In agreement to all.
- Prevent transfer of foreign species. Ensure species specific to an area stay in that area; do not get transported. Other species could also bring disease.
- Agree.

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6.3c Require proponents of developments to anticipate, prevent or mitigate risks to health and safety of persons using water bodies and waterways, that may be negatively impacted by the proponent's development.

6.3d Regulate winter ice fishing to avoid unsafe ice and conditions.

Questionnaire Results and Comments on Policy 6.3

Agree - 94% Neutral - 3% Disagree - 2%

- With regards to regulate winter ice fishing (6.3d) this should apply to the general public and not to experienced commercial fishermen who need to get on the ice early, and know better than anyone whether the ice is safe or not.
- I fished commercially for over 30 years. I am fully aware of the risks involved, especially in the early part of winter when the ice is thin. However you can't pass laws against stupidity. There is already too dam many laws in this country.
- Were you bored! This has always been in place!
- It would be impossible to regulate the winter commercial season. The fishermen have to be able to decide when it is safe, there are many variables involved.

- To what extent have the new Federal Boating Regulations made this moot?
- This can be implemented through an education program for adults on an Internet Web Site - then tested by the agency personnel and for the school students at school and tested by the classroom teachers at age levels 8-16 years old. As each level is attained a certificate can be awarded to show achievement of appropriate level.
- As long as this doesn't lead to mandatory training courses for fisher people, and registration of fishing rods.
- But shouldn't we also be protecting the fish population and habitat, not just the public? We hope that is also a consideration here.
- Fishers do not need more regulations, fishing is safe as is only one fisherman a year drowns, more people die from plane crashes, and they're really regulated, no more regulations on fishing boats! Fishing is considered dangerous. It is! But all it takes is good common sense. Don't travel when it's blowing too hard. We don't need seat belts in our boats. Enough regulations.
- At what cost, and to whom?
- No opinion.
- Only so much safety can be legislated.
- Stiff regulations need to be imposed on these Sunday drivers of noisy Sea Doos. They seem to leave their manners and common sense at home. Age limits should be imposed and specific areas developed for them away from swimmers, docks, etc...
- Deal with silting and pollution.
- Drinking and ripping around should not be tolerated.
- Leave these programs in federal hands. These are big capital items with limited practical application in the north.
- So far it is good enough but for kids it should be stepped up a little.

Group Workshop Comments

The following are comments made at the workshops in Ashern, Dauphin, Gimli and Pine Dock.

- 6.3(d) Winter commercial fishermen do not need any advice in this area. God will make this decision for us.
- Okay.
- Water recreational and commercial vehicles should be non-polluting! (as much as possible).
- In agreement to all.
- 6.3 Especially this one considering how many nets are lost every freeze up due to ice breaking up, nets then kill fish all winter long or longer.

Staff Workshop Notes

The following comments were recorded in Brandon, Pine Dock and South Indian Lake.

- Personal watercraft, bad apples spoil it for the rest.
- Regulate winter fishing, loss of nets, nets kill all winter. Opening of winter season.
- Floating debris dangerous, "its almost suicide".
- 6.3(c) ice conditions are dangerous too re: snowmobiling. "Very dangerous" can't use river need to travel in the bush.

7. Questionnaire Additional Comments and Suggestions

- Its time to stop treaty Indians from fishing during summer months furthermore why shouldn't treaty Indians have to pay tax on their winter fishing. Their earnings are made off the reserves. Some Indians are commercial fishing with a commercial licence plus are using their treaty numbers on some of their gangs of nets. These kind of people should be treated the same as any commercial fisherman, white, pink, black or yellow. Why should treaty Indians get away with paying no tax, they're earnings are made off the reserve and they must stop poaching fish all summer and selling as an open market. Please look into the above. Thank you.
- This survey is too complicated, it should have been simpler. I feel that all commercial fishing in any river should be stopped. Which mainly means that native people should not fish in rivers. There is a lot of water in the lake where they can go and catch a meal. All rivers should be left alone during the spawning season. I'm a commercial fisherman and 20 years ago people would never fish the river as they do now.
- Water quality should be a top priority in all cases. There is too much herbicide and insecticides that is washed into our lakes and rivers. Clear cutting should not be allowed near our lakes and streams. Water from USA, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario, all come into Lake Winnipeg where most fish are caught commonly.
- Am now a retired fisherman having fished quite a number of seasons on both Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba which I found very interesting. Sincerely...
- This questionnaire is very ambiguous. On many of these questions, would be inclined to agree. However, based on past government performance these subjects would be handled in a way that would not have the interested party's best interests at heart. Our government has always shunned good sound advice from men who have spent their entire lives in the fishing industry and accrued a vast knowledge of fish, habitat and sustainability etc. Instead regulating consists of using very limited information from biological surveys which are too limited and brief to be of value (i.e., test netting surveys) while ignoring the vast wealth of information which is available. Always the stress is on educated biologist whose education usually closes more doors than it opens. There has been 100 years of fish management in Manitoba without ever stumbling onto a good plan. Misinformation about fishing (commercial) is spread by almost every conservation officer every day which helps widen the gap of understanding between commercial fishermen and sport fishermen. Remember sport fishing is sport. Commercial fishing is someone's livelihood. It feeds my wife's children-it buys their clothes and provided their shelter. It could give us a good life. Every government review of fishing gets lost in the forest. Let us look at the trees. Thank you.
- Aboriginal peoples of Manitoba are assembling a fishery directorate to assist the northern commercial fishery which is on verge of collapsing because Freshwater's Fish Marketing Board lack of export marketing of all fish species. During the 1960's, northern fishers produced about 15% of Lake Winnipeg's annual fish harvest which produces 50% of FFMC's annual fish harvest (FFMC area; North West Territories, Alberta, Saskatchewan / Manitoba). In 1996/97 fiscal year the north produces less than 5% (five percent) of Lake Winnipeg's annual production.

  Since 1969, when FFMC came into existence the following has occurred;
- Fish prices have not changed to meet price increase in commodities. , i.e., gasoline etc,...
- FFMC's men polistic (??) power to select purchase of pickerel is hurting other fish populations. As a result every year 100 millions of fish are discarded or dumped by fishers, which is effecting the way fish eaters are looking at FFMC fishers.
- Has managed to de-evaluate the fishery industry in Western Canada.
- FFMC has managed to manditorly deduct individual fishers in the amount of 4.5 million dollars. Yet the funding is not appropriated to fishers.

- FFMC has managed to destroy annually over 100 million pounds of fish who cannot afford the high transportation cost of freight.
- FFMC has not been able to market all fish species. They only market cream of crop fish.
- FFMC has managed to change the way they buy fish (pickerel) In 1997-they introduced length payment as opposed to weight payment. This policy is affecting northern fishers.
- FFMC has managed to destroy inland fishery.
- According to McIvor commission in 1965 - FFMC on a single marketing desk was to market fish, not to process fish. The creation of Transcona fish plant was not in the McIvor commission. It is costing fishers (nearly?) 20 million dollars a year to operate the plant. For example: in 1997-98 fiscal year, fishers made 49 million dollars, however, they were only paid 20 million. Where did the balance of 29 million went. Because FFMC audit says they did not make a profit.

  Last year, fisheries made 120 million with FFMC making 49 million. This means that anglers are making more money than commercial gill net fishers.

  In order to exceed and expand the sale of fish, to prosper commercial fishers Canada and Manitoba must disband FFMC. Commercial fisheries must be left alone to be effective. Privatization of the industry will prosper not only fishers but to inland businesses.
- The mesh size of nets should be seriously looked at. The small pickerel that is being taken out of the south end of Lake Winnipeg is a disgrace. These are immature fish that will never have a chance to reproduce. Speaking to the representatives from Alberta they cannot see how the government could allow three (3) inch mesh nets to be used in a pickerel area. If something is not done about this then all our writing and regulations are in vain.
- No mention was made of the impact cormorants have on fish stocks in some areas of Manitoba. This is a real concern to fishermen as they are overpopulated. Regarding the rough fish being under-utilized - FFMC has more sales for rough fish than we commercial fishermen have been able to supply! There are already enough rules and regulations without implements duplicates as a lot of your applications are. Regarding northern Aboriginal fishermen, if the government would reintroduce the freight credits it would make their fishing a viable operation again. To open up the sales of fish rather than going through FFMC would be like going back in time, not progressing. Anyone who fished before the FFMC will disagree with opening up the markets. A lot of the people lobbying for this are not even fishermen! In my opinion this Manitoba Round table project is a total waste of money and as I said previously looks like a make work project on our hard earned tax dollar!
- Being a commercial fisherman, I'm concerned about the resource and am well aware that it needs to be looked after to remain sustainable. It is in our best interest to take care of the resource. I don't think the general public and recreational angler realize this is in our minds. I would not want to have a recreational angler's and the general public, to any high decree influence government decisions regarding commercial fishing. This should be left to the biologists. When small mesh nets were introduced a few years ago, a lot of us commercial fishermen were against it, but it went through anyway. Once it was allowed it boosted our income considerably by letting us catch perch and sauger which normally swam through our nets. Some small pickerel were also caught, but not many. The small mesh helped us out mostly after the pickerel quit moving later in the season. One year the season was extended to the end of March and the weather was unusually warm the last two weeks. Water began running through the ice and the pickerel began moving, our small mesh nets filled up with pickerel. This was a mistake for I believe it was very hard on the resource. I believe small mesh nets have their place but should not be used every year. The interval should be based upon the time it takes a fry to grow to catchable size (perch and sauger).
- I fished the north basin of Lake Manitoba since the 1960's and my father and uncles fished it since the 1930's. All the older fishermen agreed that the three inch fishery would kill commercial fishing in the north basin of Lake Manitoba. Over the last 4 or 5 years I have watched the fish get fewer and smaller. So knowing that fishery soon wouldn't pay any more I sold my outfit last year. Lots of days we wouldn't even get enough to pay expenses. This is a direct result of small mesh fishing. I think the lake will be at least 4 or 5 years coming back, and possibly a bit longer. We traded a 5 month season for a 6 week season. How absurd. I think people like Harry Enns, who was for many years our Natural Resources

minister must first check which way the wind is blowing and then make rules on what benefits them politically and don't give a damn what happens as a result of their actions. By this I hope you understand that I, and indeed a lot, if not most, of the older fishermen are just a little cynical about politics. Politicians, in my opinion, make rules that get them votes and then make all sorts of noises about the environment just to look good. To me it's all ....!

The small mesh fishery reminds me a little of Rat trapping years ago. I trapped off and on for forty or more years, and I think I know what I am talking about. We used to have a season starting March 1st or March 15th then suddenly about 25 years ago, the government opened the season starting Nov 1st and now Oct. 15th. I wrote Natural Resources and asked why. They said it was because the trappers weren't producing enough Rats so they gave us a longer season in order to catch more Rats. Anybody with any experience trapping Rats knows that it doesn't work that way. People go in Dec. or Jan. when the weather is cold and just freeze out all the houses and catch only half or less than if they would have waited until the weather was warmer. This, coupled with the fact that the fall born kits are only half grown in the early winter and unprime to boot, all the trappers made substantially less money, than before the law was changed.

It is my opinion that the biologist and bureaucrats, who work with Natural Resources, either don't know or don't care about the resources that they are in charge of. Pardon me for not taking you people very seriously.

- I personally would like to see the sport fishers do less blaming of the commercial fishers every time the fish don't bite. I have seen anglers kill thousands of fish while the commercial fishers caught very few. I would also like to see sport fishers spend some money on the restocking like the commercial fishers do. I also think this questionnaire has too many bureaucratic questions. The main idea is to improve fishing for all people since all people have had a hand in the depletion of the stocks.
- The "Workshop on Fish" and this questionnaire is, without a doubt, the most useless waste of our tax dollars. Why was it not written so the "average" person could understand it? It was probably written by someone with a great amount of schooling and very knowledgeable about things out of a book, but totally ignorant of the real issues regarding our lakes and the fishing industry in general.

  There are some very simple solutions, without all this mumbo-jumbo.

  The laws of the lake should be enforced, whether they are white, Aboriginal or Metis involved. There are thousands and thousands of pound of fish being filleted every year and sold illegally.

  We don't begrudge someone living on a reserve going out and catching enough fish for himself and his family, but on average that is not how it is done. They set nets in the early spring before the fish have spawned and take thousands of pounds. If this practice was stopped, it is my belief that it would be a tremendous help to the fishing industry in general.

  I have an even bigger problem with the so-called "Metis" people (some of whom have so little Indian blood that they probably couldn't trace their ancestry if asked to) who believe it is their "right" to hunt and fish whenever and wherever they choose and then flaunt it in the face of "whitey". We all live in the same country and we should all have to abide by the same laws. I would like to receive a reply.

  Thank you.
- Water resources plays an important role in Lake Manitoba. Running the Diversion (Portage) this spring should be regulated properly, the sediment from the Diversion is hurting this lake.
- Proposal #1. Trophy fish in Red River. Harvesting trophy fish should apply to all ages as a family can take as many as they want if the kids are under 16. Have them buy a licence and sign it, or the guardian has to claim it and then no more for the rest of the year. "Rape" of fish stock happens regularly with youth taking them and then there are a decrease supply. This should apply to Red River walleye at Pinefalls area.

  Proposal #2: Tag system for harvesting of "1" Channel Cat. Guides and outfitters should have access to tags as they do deer for the possession of a determined amount to be shared between guides. This way clients who wish to take 1 fish home may. This is controlled and with a fee also puts $ back into the system.

  Proposal #3: After 65 why do Seniors have to pay! They paid enough and if their health is permitting let them alone! They should comply with limits but they have done their job and now deserve to at least go fishing!

Proposal #4: You have to have your lawyer present when you choose to read the fishing regulations. Can't you write in plain, laymen's language to avoid confusion! Tourists have one heck of a time when they come and then mistakes are made! Wenn Du schriehst a beaucoup des langues cequi viele menschen nicht verstehen kunn. AK BOHE Zoghla pozomiume? Try understanding that! That is how your regulations read!

- (1.) Along the Manigotagan River System and East side of Lake Winnipeg I would like to see a ban on all materials used for dock building that is treated with creosote or soaked in other pressure treated solutions. (2.) Also the Pine Falls paper company should not be allowed to cut along the rivers (buffers) like they did at Sandy River. They cut just above a major spawning ground. This type of logging has to stop. (3.) Stop all cottage development along the Lake Winnipeg shores that don't have the proper septic or sewage system. (4.) The government (Highways yard) in Manigotagan should be moved also there is a lot of run off every year, just above the Falls and the community drinking water intake is just below. (5.) To have good fish production you have to have good water quality and I feel we don't have that in this area. The bottom of the Manigotagan River has 5 feet of silt (see attached) and also a lot of old logs from the sawmill days. (6.) The S.B.R. unit that Northern Affairs has put in this community is polluting the water as well raw sewage is going right into the river. (7.) Manitoba Hydro is also to blame for poor fish production as well, I feel since they put all the hydro dams on the north end of Lake Winnipeg. There is no current on the East side of the Lake. The fish needs current to move. Something is wrong, no current all winter. (8.) The old mines from the Bissett area has polluted the water as well, the last time they pump Bissett mine out all that water from the mine has made its way to Lake Winnipeg through the Manigotagan and Wanipigow river systems. I feel this has a big impact on the environment. (9.) Also the spraying of herbicides and pesticides by the Pine Falls Paper Company has a big impact on the water quality in this area. (10.) I feel we need a co-management with the treaty and non-treaty in this area to keep all nets out of the water till after the spawn is over. This type of cooperation has to come from all people. We need a pilot project for this area. We also need to stock our small lakes and ponds with trout and other species to take the pressure off the walleye. In our last fishing derby last May long weekend we found fish with Growth on them, I feel we should check these type of things out. (correspondence attached to questionnaire)
- I feel there should be more effort put into catching poachers and First Nations people who are illegally selling fish. In my area there are half a dozen people doing this. It is common knowledge but year after goes by and nothing is done. Yet I have seen on the lake (Manitoba) three bombardiers and 6 snowmachines, this was all on one day. Once they even had a plane out with all of the snow machines and on one occasion a helicopter. All this effort to measure nets. If as much effort was placed in catching people illegally selling fish from spring to fall the practice may slow down and our fish stocks would benefit in the long run. And as I stated before fishing should be closed to everyone until spawning is over. It's not the people fishing to eat that are the problem. It's the ones that are selling is the big problem. Not only with fish but all game. Thank you.
- I believe that the commercial fisherman who sells fish to the public is doing something criminal. There is no way these sales can be monitored fairly. It is only by way of the honest fisherman out there. Many brag how they fillet, then sell for cash, their fillets. Well those fillets are adding up. I estimate for every 5 or 6 quota's filled, there are about another 2 quota's filleted on black-markets. The public should be made aware that without the slip to record sales of fillets they are committed a crime as well. Policing of these acts should be made priority. Within a month or 2 here and there, the government would realize just how terrible this situation is. There are truck loads and trunk loads taken hourly / daily / weekly by many walks of life / people. "How can you tell who is a murder", well I say "How can you tell who is a poacher." Each commercial fisherman has licences. It states the amount of weight in fish sales allowed. When they got these licences they had agreed not to surpass those sales so they should stop there. They also agreed to the stated amount of yards in nets in a certain area. A lot are surpassing the yardage and areas. So much it is a joke to see the licence having the stated requirements. Please note that I am a fisherperson. If I can adhere to the rules and still make a living then others can. If they can't

then they should try another vocation. I am mad because my livelihood is at stake due to greed. I see others purchasing materialistic items with money made from under the table fish sales. They are no better than the Mafia. This problem adds up to hundreds of millions yearly lost to government because the revenue is obviously not reported. Do something about it now.

- There should be no catch and release program. A high percentage of released fish die from stress and handling and damage to their mouths. There can be many fish caught in a day with no limits on how many and a lot more than the allowable amount to be kept will slowly die. There should be a minimum strength of fish line selected to the size of fish being caught. Many fish swim away with undersized line and leader after the line breaks to get caught on a rock or jagged bottom where they slowly die from starvation. It is only because they are silent and unseen that it is allowed. If any other species of animal was treated like this there would be a huge outcry about it. There should be a law against torturing anything for fun. Playing a fish on the end of a line is cruel and then releasing it to do it again is terrible.
- I am a commercial fisherman on Lake Winnipeg, have been for 30 years. The fishing has been going up and down in cycles for generations, right now we should be starting an up cycle. The biggest thing that effects the fishery has been water levels. Another big factor is fishing before the fish have been able to spawn, both commercial and recreational fishing should not be allowed before this time. The best way I could see of decreasing the pressure of commercial fishing would be the government buying licences of retiring fishermen, in effect down-sizing. And please for the sake of all the fishermen leave the F.F.M.C. alone, we really need it.
- I have been a commercial fisherman on Lake Manitoba for 16 years. I farm year round feeding and calving cows in the winter. My partner and I fish in the Lynch's point area. We have seen the 3 inch fishing decimate the sauger stocks by the end of 1995. As the attention focused on perch their numbers are starting to recede. The abuse of fishing 3 inch goes unmonitored by government wardens. I should state here, that my partner and I have only about 40 (3 inch) nets for the last several years. We have never in 9 seasons had our limit of 50 nets on our two licences in the water. Fishermen will come by to visit and tell us that they have 60 to 95 3 inch nets in the water on their 2 licences. They do not fear getting caught by the wardens. They fish the lines catching the best and leaving the others for up to 2-3 weeks. The catch of small pickerel and sauger has hurt the stocks badly. We have set about 15 to 20 3 inch only, the past couple seasons. This is a self imposed limit and we fish more 3 3/4 longer into February. We also fish for black carp. The other fishermen joke about how we're not getting the sauger and perch. They say "we're going to have to hurry before they're all gone." The wardens efforts to monitor fishing are very sad. Tight nets, decaying fish and too many 3 inch nets are very common. We do not look to fishing to make a living on it's own. We fish to supplement our income for 3 or 4 months. Fishermen should not be eligible for unemployment benefits. I think anyone who has enough ambition to fish in the winter, could not sit around all summer. They must be working on the side and cheating the government. The suspension of licences should be enforced for these offences. I feel the government is in a tight spot when asked to close a lake. If they close a lake the fisherman will call for compensation, as well welfare to the reserves will increase. Many more will be on employment insurance for the winter. The government collects many benefits and taxes by keeping the fishing season on. Water Quality: In July 1998 a train derailed at the JCT.#1 and #16. A railcar spilled 60,000 litres of anti freeze base into Rat Creek or Willowbend as it is known there. To my knowledge no clean up was ever done, the newspapers report it wasn't necessary. That creek smelled all summer and now with spring runoff it will be making its way to the Whitemud River and Lake Manitoba. The lower end of the creek is a valuable spawning area and I suppose they (the fish) will have to learn to digest anti-freeze! The fishing industry and government of Manitoba need only to look east or west to see what mismanagement of this resource will do. I believe fishing should be reduced or suspended on Lake Manitoba. At the very least the 3 inch fishery should be stopped immediately. We have seen stocks are very slow to recover in the east coast area. The recreational fisherman would like to see some steps taken to ensure fish stocks are in fact in good shape.

- The progressive conservatives / Manitoba provincial governments comment that, treaty peoples are an Ottawa problem, does not promote equality and respect. How does any administrative policy stand with that kind of previous century thinking. Today is April 7, 1999 and this Manitoba government still follows the law of discovery to a point, where the indigenous are not part of the Manitoba citizenship. Maybe someone can tell the government that holding treaty peoples back will cause all Manitoban's to remain where we are and not be able to fly as high as one can, in one life time.
- I cannot overemphasize that: (1) Aquatic communities, not just fish, need to be understood, and, with the understanding, intelligently and effectively protected. To do this you need: (2) Professionally trained fisheries biologists to get the information, analyse it and compile the basic knowledge. (It also helps to give them the resources to do the work.) (3) An educated, aware and concerned public, including aquatic resource users, who will including aquatic resource users, who will be involved in producing management plans based on the knowledge gained by (2). (4) Sufficient numbers of enforcement personnel (Natural Resource Officers) to implement and enforce the regulations developed. -In other words - it won't be free. So much funding has been removed from (2) and (4) over the last 20 or so years that present human resources aren't sufficient to do job. Furthermore, the education system (Universities and Community Colleges) have been starved for funding over the same period, and there are barely enough resources left to educate the professional biologists and Natrual Resource Officers that will be needed. It really doesn't matter what a long-term policy may say or what the legislation and regulations say unless there are the personnel, infrastructure and money support to carry out policy and enforce regulations. At present, Manitoba must spend about the least amount on this of any jurisdiction in the USA or Canada.
- Good luck developing policies! While fish represent an important recreational and commercial resource, we often lose sight of the fact that these are wild animals, living in a complex ecosystem with myriad overlapping biological interactions. The need to improve our knowledge about how lakes work is crucial to the effective management of the fisheries resource. When conflicting opinions crop up on specific fish management issues (and they will!), always lean toward the preservation of the resource rather than the economic well-being of resource user. Fish don't get welfare, and they can never find another job, or hobby.
- Natives should be treated as equal. Should follow rules and regulations, should follow same fishing seasons, should follow regular fishing limits, should be requested to purchase a licence.

  No race should be allowed to be exempt from the rules and regulations that everyone else is expected to follow. If this continues, dipnetting, fishing out of season etc. there will be no fish for sporting anglers to catch, let alone get more people involved in the sport. I too will sell my land if I may have the rights and privileges of the natives. I am not prejudice or racist, however I feel utilizing our resources should be on an equal basis with no prejudice to the general race. Why should the tax payers support fishery programs when natives can do as they wish, and wipe out a total fish population, which took ten years and how many millions of dollars to establish. And yet I still get their regular treaty cheque which is supposed to be enough to sustain them.
- The main threat to our fish resources and our wildlife resources is the present logging practices of the corporate loggers in this province. The licences granted to these companies are far too broad and the amount they are allowed to cut annually is not sustainable. These companies seem to do as they please. Their road networks, stream crossings, and size of their clear-cut areas are a threat to the natural welfare of our province. Their tree planting program is a joke but as long as they are planting trees they seem to be able to get away with murder. The present parameters to which these companies are granted licences must change or all our resources will suffer. The present sustainable development strategy for forests is not sustainable.
- Lake levels should be raised to bring lakes up to a more substantial level allowing creeks to slow down spring run's, allowing fish to have better spawn. You talk to older fishermen who were on the lake for 50-60 years and fishing was always better, so why are we keeping our lake levels low.

  Winter of 98-99 our fish on the north end of lake Manitoba was low and fish were getting low on oxygen. People on Lake Winnipeg say their lake level is high so why not close the dam at Fairford to raise our lake level up. (Manitoba). Most of the land that will be flooded was always wet before. Because of a few years dry, these ranchers, farmers have reclaimed this land which was not theirs at the start anyway. When Lake Winnipegosis's fish stocks started to drop is when the dam at Fairford was opened which makes me believe as people we screwed with nature. As citizens of Manitoba we will have to work together to help restore our lakes. There were more commercial fishing going on in the 50-60's compared to the late 80's and the 90's, and there was more fish. Even angling was better before with a lot of non-resident fishermen coming to Manitoba because of great fishing. But as modern technology advances we are losing on spawning grounds as you look at creeks now, why aren't the fish coming up the creek's (what 's in the water chemicals, to fast of run off, not keeping creek levels a little higher). What other affects are there. These studies should be done first. I can see this restoring will take years' to do and it will take a lot of work and cooperation between governments, anglers and commercial fishermen, ranchers, farmers and the public and municipalities. I think this booklet is a good start but we have a long ways to go.

- I'm repeating myself but a good freshwater fishery for residents and or tourists that provides a large number of fish per unit of time effort should be the goal. The majority of this catch should be released and any small daily portion be allowed to be retained for consumption. We do not require a food fishery for vast majority of our citizens. Given this there should be mechanism available to provide subsistence licence to those in need that identifies or authorizes on a sliding scale of weight or mass of fish the amount permitted on individual basis. Licence free. There is no way you can manage the resource without having acceptable trustworthy harvest data.
- In my area Aboriginals (treaties) have a harsh impact on the local pickerel stocks. Some Aboriginals, in the area, are grossly abusing their right to fish in restricted areas. I was told by someone who was helping the Aboriginals that they were taking out approximately 80 tubs of pickerel a day! (This is approximately 6,400 lbs. of pickerel!) I strongly feel this problem has to be addressed before the pickerel stocks are completely decimated. One solution is to only allow recreational fishing in restricted areas. Aboriginals can successfully harvest fish in the same areas as commercial fisherman.
- I hope a lot of people read the article in the Spectator newspaper written by Robert Kristjanson about the damage done to our fisheries by the cormorants. Not only are they devouring the small fish, there is heavy damage being done on the larger fish by the cormorant from injury caused by the sharp hooked beak. Biologists have claimed they eat only rough fish but the only reason for that is they have cleaned out the better varieties. People have no place in raising fish in ponds, cormorants clean out the trout and pickerel. One fellow shot and opened a cormorant and found six small pickerel inside it. There are a lot of species that need protection and some that need control. No. 1 is the land four legged rat. The other is the flying rat the cormorant. Ugly, filthy and disease carrying bird. I do both some commercial and sport fishing and the fish seem to be disappearing from our lakes. I see the water at times just covered with cormorants in a feeding frenzy. There are ignorant groups that are protecting this bird that have no idea what they are doing. I feel open season should be declared on the cormorant. There was a bounty on them at one time as far as I know and that sounds like a good idea. Its too bad people will have to take the law into their own hands to protect their fishing grounds as some people are trying. I am going to enclose an article from an American magazine, "Field and Stream". Where they call this bird the "devil bird", seems it is spreading heavily across North America. I suppose it is a political decision to open season on this bird, but pressure by fishermen and anglers as well as Natural Resources peoples, may do it. I hope more people will report on this.
- I totally disagree with the commercial net fishing allowed on Wekusko Lake. I own the Wekusko Falls Lodge 10 miles southeast of the town of Snow Lake. This past winter I was one of the six speakers that sat on the committee trying to come up with some practical solutions to restore the angling we once enjoyed on Wekusko Lake. I believe that we have accomplished that after 8 or so meetings. All the way through these meetings a commercial fisherman, also a member of the committee, by the name of ... kept stating that there is no problem with the fishing on the lakes. His commercial fishing records for the past 9 years proved and showed a decline in the fish stocks on Wekusko Lake. He kept saying that this was a cycle and he'd seen this happen before, I've resided in Snow Lake for 40 years and have lived

on Wekusko Lake for 18 of those years and have never seen this even happen in the past. We seven committee members asked to approach the citizens of Snow Lake approach the citizens of Snow Lake for input into their concerns over Wekusko Lake. One of the most common concerns I encountered from the citizens of Snow Lake was the licence (summer) that is issued annually to ...to catch and sell walleye fillets to the public. I tabled this concern at one of the meetings and ...became very angry and disturbed by this issue. This I believe is a licence to print money, as a lodge owner I make daily trip to the garbage dump and have seen from 30 to 50 walleye heads a day being dumped from ...I can prove this. His weekly quota is 90 KG. I would say he is over fishing his quota. ...has no regard for the Wekusko Lake fisheries as you can contact ...on some of the infractions and such that have taken place over the past years. At the beginning of these meetings we addressed the issue as to what has happened to our fish stocks on Wekusko Lake. ...stated that we probably missed a few years of spawn because of low water levels or weather conditions during spawning season. I don't doubt for any reason that this may have happened but if you look at all the lakes along the Grass River system from the Cranberry Lakes all the way to Paint Lake by Thompson, Manitoba, how come only Wekusko Lake and Setting Lake have problems. I believe its because of the commercial fishing.
I employ more people, at my lodge, than all of commercial fishermen do combined, let alone the number of employees working at the Wekusko Falls campground which has been literally empty over the past 3 years. There is absolutely no revenue returns back to the economy of Snow Lake from the commercial fishing on Wekusko Lake as all employees are at my lodge and the park are all local people. None of the fishermen employed by the licensed commercial fisherman are local people. Wekusko Lake cannot sustain the pressure from the commercial fishing industry, that is proven as with the high quality management regs on Trapping Lake we are catching over 200 trophy walleye a year on this lake and its improving every year. This lake has been literally raped (Wekusko Lake) over the past years and the quota records and creel census prove that. I ask your department to strongly (remove??) the commercial fishing industry on this lake. I would most certainly like to see the Department of Natural Resources monitor the summer commercial fishing more closely (Receipts). My name is ...and I would be more than willing to discuss this problem further with your department. Thank you for the opportunity to have some input into the study.

- Senior citizens should not require to purchase fishing licences.
- A goal should be zero tolerance on wastage:
  - grounded heads etc. cooked, frozen for mink feed, etc. -rough fish, harvested prepared as human food: canned sucker, fish sticks, etc. There are some wonderful recipes out there that could be utilized.
  -rough fish - cat food.
- No comments on any policies.
- Would like to see more fish hatcheries to support small lakes from anglers as well as for commercial fishing. Close monitoring of spawning rivers and creeks for pollution.
- Policy 5.0 and 6.0. The education of the public can be enhanced by awarding certificates by appropriate agencies on the attainment of each level of information or getting on a provincial list that can be beneficial when it comes to issuing licences, benefits, merits, etc.
- Information related to this initiative should be continued, promoted and advertised.
- Regarding your questionnaire: It is very long and drawn out and it seems to have been made up by someone with a very good education and is for college or university people with same. Keep you questionnaires to more common sense things in future if you can implement a small percentage (25%) of this paper you will be well on your way to a better fishing policy. Regarding Freshwater Fish: The same thing applies to FWF as to your questionnaire. Use more common sense - I have been associated with C.F for some 55 years or more and common sense and good management have been the best policy - this ... of political appointments will have to stop if FWF is to survive. FWF was brought into being for the commercial fishermen and its existence is good for same. The management staff and workers have to realize FWF was made for us not the other way around. They are supposed to work for us not us for them. Without C.F.s there is no FWF: again it seems that when we get good management and staff ways are found to screw them up. Again, if you are to have a viable operation we have to work with a lot

of common sense and use the people who going to do the proper job not the same "..." who runs around making trouble for some of better sub management (you know who) and telling C.F.s what he's going to do. Don't forget to use common sense.

- (1) Stop all commercial during summer season. (2) Stop using small mesh nets should be using 4", 4 1/4", 5", 5 1/4" only in lake where fish stock are very low (like Lake Winnipegosis) for the next 10 years and set up fish hatchery around the lakes and also Lake Manitoba. (3) in the north like Nelson River all dams should have fish ladders also Manitoba Hydro be held accountable for maintaining water levels during spawning season fall and spring. (4) Outfitters should be step on a little more here in the north. They chase people out of lakes that have some fish in them say that no fish should leave the lake, after awhile over a few years fish get big and eat them selves and end up with no smaller fish to support the lake. (5) Angling fish should be a year catch. Your first 4 fish and then you have to stop fish. But by that stopping the fishing you do more damage to your fish stock catch and release by hooking the fish and play them fish out and stressing the fish, big or small. Also by using fishing tackle from lake to lake chances are spreading fish diseases, so by washing your tackle before and after fishing in different lakes. (6) Aboriginal peoples fishing for food is a myth. If they can afford to fly fish to a lake to fish with nets, take all they can take out in plane, boat, or truck then leaving the nets in the water for more fish to die and rot and the problem is an ongoing problem but we keep having Treaty rights can fish. Nobody need do this kind of fish these days so Aboriginal peoples should wake up and smell the coffee before isn't any left. We have a good province but if our government departments keep good this way and keep their head in the sand. Maybe some day there will be hope. There has been enough studies at reserves, time to act.
- I am a commercial fisherman on Lake Winnipeg. I have fished now for 35 years. Fish population work in cycles we have had bad years for the last 3 or four years. We are now on the up trend of its cycle. I say for the next 5 or 6 years you will see good production. When Hydro dammed the Nelson River they have been keeping the lake at unusually high levels. They should be forced to lower the level of Lake Winnipeg. Another thing you made reference to native fishermen. Do not try to make a racial issue out of fishing. Stop the use of pesticides and fertilizers that make their way into our creeks and rivers and eventually into our lakes. You should also ask more direct questions. Not like your questions which you might agree with part but all. Also do not tamper with Freshwater Fish Marketing Board.
- Mr. D. Hatch and Members, I attended the April 12/99 meeting at the wildlife building because I am an avid angler and have been a northern resident all my life. As reported in the Thompson Citizen of April 14, 99 the meeting was a very lop sided affair with the Mayor of a tiny railway community, Thicket Portage, doing the vast majority of the talking. ...presented a very one sided view of the situation and basically condemned sport fishing of any kind. I was upset by his attitude and biased comments and told you I would leave the meeting before I got involved in a dispute. And I left. Thicket Portage has a very small population with about a dozen telephones - mostly government agencies or services. ...representation is very small indeed, and he fails to see the forest for the trees when it comes to economic development. Those fishermen he claims to represent are fishing on less than twenty licences. Down the rail line, Pikwitonei has two commercial fishermen. Basically, the problem was summed up by ..., another presenter, and a very bright one at that. He said some fishermen at Nelson House were spending $2.00 to catch a fish that brings in $1.50, and I suspect that since Nelson House has an all weather road and Thicket Portage does not, that the problem in Thicket is even worse. This doesn't make sense. Better to build tourist facilities and have anglers spend $2500.00 for five days of fishing where they can have a true out door experience complete with shore lunch; glimpses of wildlife; and catch and release some very exciting fish. ...is certainly missing the point. He wants an all weather road, but he wants to be able to draw up the draw bridge and keep anglers from fishing on the two local lakes near Thicket Portage. Nice little kingdom! His lop sided view that commercial fishermen were chased off Paint Lake is also incorrect. One of his community fisherman was licensed to winter fish on Paint Lake, but lost his licence when resources officers checked his nets and found rotting fish in them, because they had not been lifted for a week. There are more than 200,000 anglers in Manitoba. The industry supported by

anglers is huge. It is a very wholesome family activity involving more than a worm and a hook and some string. The boats and equipment provide spin-offs which are necessary for jobs in our province. Anglers in our province pay an extra fee for fish enhancement projects in the province of Manitoba. This includes huge restocking programs of such fish as walleye in such places as Limestone Bay, which by the way, was fished out for years by commercial fishermen, not anglers. A net set by a commercial fisherman does not discriminate between species. Whatever is caught is killed - simple as that. Anglers on the other hand use barbless hooks to catch and release species, and keep some to eat, usually pan sized fish. (Larger ones are not as tasty). A four lb. walleye has a million eggs. These represent a lot of little fish when that fish is killed, which is why lakes get killed. In each new angler's guide, there are dozens of new regulations which restrict angling methods and limits for sport fishermen. Commercial fishermen do not have anywhere near the number of regulations to follow, especially Status Indians who can basically fish anywhere, anytime with no limits or rules. Commercial fishing is not a right guaranteed specifically by treaty. Subsistence fishing is and should be, but selling black market fish for profit is wrong. Finally, Canadians own the crown land in Canada and the waters and the resources in them. No one group does - it is everyone's and it should never be taken away from future Canadians by one group. We all have a right to those resources, and a responsibility to make sure they are sustained.

- Money is required for research. Research is necessary on an ongoing basis in the bigger lakes in particular. Need research in producing fingerlings in pickerel. Need research where lakes stocked with fry can be more successful pertaining to survival of the fry. Present policy where roads and bridge crossing have to be destroyed when timber harvesting is completed in area's near highways and towns should be reversed. Manitoba Policy is completely opposite policies in other provinces, such as Saskatchewan and Ontario.
- I would like to see the commercial fishing on South basin of Lake Winnipeg and promote the sport angling on the Red River by putting a special licence on the Red and Winnipeg River below Pine Falls to buy out the commercial licences.
- Fishing is considered dangerous. It is! But all it takes is good common sense. Don't travel when it's blowing to hard. We don't need seat belts in our boats. Enough regulations.
- This questionnaire is very vague, you might agree with part of the question but disagree with the other part. I think you could have been a little more to the point. Recreational fishermen should not be given priority over people making their living fishing. Also does not use race as a factor.
- The Aboriginal right to hunt or fish year round in Canada has to be limited. In our area we have a lot of natives fishing with nets in the spawning areas, not only do they take the fish in a unsporting and unethical way they are doing it before they have a chance to reproduce. Killing fish with a belly full of eggs is the most irresponsible way of managing our resources from a group of people who consider themselves one with nature. In our area we can buy pickerel fillets all spring long caught and sold by natives in the spring spawning grounds. They not only kill the spawning fish they disrupt the habitat in which the fish are depositing their eggs in. Their right to harvest fish for their own consumption is questionable to most people in our area. But under the excuse for sustenance fishing they are catching then selling their catch and it is very hard to prove because the people who are buying the fish are getting such a good deal they won't stop buying fish thus causing a growing market for this fish. The law enforcement agencies should be doing more to stop this legal poaching!! With more undercover agents trying to stop this sort of thing with jail terms and high fines for the Natives, and very high fines for the fish buyers and loss of hunting and fishing rights for 1 year. Our spawning areas around our area are getting very depleted of adult fish. With this problem we are seeing large areas in recent years catching less + less fish in our commercial nets. If this major problem is corrected our fisheries will come back, without fixing it in ten years our area will be finished, and commercial fishing + sport fishing will be a thing of the past.
- By the quality of the enclosed questionnaire, I feel the Department of Manitoba Natural Resources is doing an exceptional overall job on the fishery resources. Close monitoring will be required as the general population ages and more people head to

the field's for general recreation and fishing opportunities. Also, the general population will be increasing + subsequently putting more pressure on our fisheries + overall resources.

- Excellent ideas, wonderful plans. It is time to take action, be proactive and deal with the issues as they are. Native issues are important, we need to think what will be best for everyone not just one group of people. Canada, Manitoba as a whole not separate. A building will not fall over if every brick is in place, separate yet at the same time a piece of the bigger picture together! Society needs to put aside personal individual needs and think about what is best for us all. Political reality needs to be addressed. Rules, laws, restrictions are there to be followed not to be bent or ignored, especially if people believe these restrictions, rules, laws do not have to apply to everyone.
- I feel Manitoba is very progressive and in a lot of ways, ahead of other provinces in its fisheries management and enhancements. But where we're not getting our fair share is from American fishermen who come to Manitoba self-contained or staying at an American owned lodge, and do not contribute enough to our fishery or to our local merchants. Only a small segment of Manitobans are truly benefiting from these "tourists". On southern Manitoba lakes over harvest and trophy harvest is also taking place for a small nominal licence fee. I know of a party from Minnesota that took home ten pike over 41" long on one weekend from one Whiteshell lake. I think non-resident licence fees should be increased drastically and a no trophy harvest for resident and non-resident alike be instituted. It's time for these Americans to contribute not only to private interests but to where it really counts most, the fish and their environment.
- I am quite familiar with Lake Manitoba and its fishing history. We have held a commercial licence from - my grandfather (1890 to 1979); my father (1924 to 1979); myself (1979 to present). Small mesh nets were introduced back in the 1920s and used for about ten years. They were proven to be a detriment to the fish stock and were made illegal in the 1930s. We then had some of the most productive years (the 50s, 60s and 70s) that the lake has ever seen. We are going through the same cycle again. It is time to make small mesh fishing on Lake Man. illegal to bring back a productive lake. If we surveyed all the commercial fishermen on Lake Manitoba. I think the results would be to ban small mesh nets and try to work with Ducks Unlimited to improve the spawning grounds for our most valued species of fish. It is also time to realize the value the lake has towards tourism and recreational angling. There are very few commercial fishermen who depend upon fishing as their prime income. The season should be shortened to Nov 1 to March 1st with only 3 3/4" mesh nets.
- This questionnaire was much too long and detailed for the average Manitoban to be involved.
- The recreational fisherman must not be looked at as a source of additional revenue by fining him for the silliest thing, whether actual or not. It seems that at certain areas especially adjoining to native reserves a recreational fisherman when checked must be "ticketed" and yet when you look along the shoreline you see a lot of very poorly marked nets, you find a lot of decaying carcasses in these nets. This practice is not acceptable. If the natives are allowed to place these nets they should also be monitored. These decaying fish and lost floating nets are a total waste of fish. The idea of a barbed hook hurting more fish than a barbless hook is silly. A barbless hook will penetrate the fish further and can actually hurt the fish more.
- This survey completed by a 6 member panel. We believe it reflects the majority view of our membership of the Brokenhead River Game and Fish Assoc.
- Thanks for the opportunity to comment on Manitoba's fisheries resources.
- Filling out the questionnaire is somewhat of a daunting task for many Manitoban's. The language used is not conducive to responses from many in the general public including: new Canadians, youth, and those without an advanced education. There is a prevailing thought among groups and individuals involved in fish-related activities that the questionnaire was specifically designed for certain answers and opinions and that the intention was to only "appear" to be consulting with the general public. Secondly, there is not one workshop being held south of Hwy #1. Why? A major portion of Manitobans live south of Hwy #1, many who angle. The southern angling opportunities seem to be often forgotten. While we do not have lake upon lake as in some other areas, it just makes the bodies of water that we have is that

much more important and vital. Workshops seem to be centred around commercial fishing areas. The questionnaire also seems to focus on economics and economic values beyond its actual value when dealing with a natural resource. On the positive side, I must commend the Fisheries Branch of Department of Natural Resources for the work involved in the workshops, workbooks and questionnaires and the Deptartment for following the route they have taken for consultation before implementation. Thank you for the opportunity to make my comments on our fish resource. P.S. Any new strategy must include some type of angler harassment legislation to protect users. This would be truly a proactive move, because it will happen.

- None.

- In my opinion there were away too many questions with almost the same meaning. The department should continue with the hatcheries on Lake Manitoba and also discontinue the use of small mesh nets "3"". As a long time commercial fisherman on Lake Manitoba I have seen the detrimental effect these nets have had on the lake.

- Too much emphasis is put on Aboriginal issues, and their rights in regards to fishing. Although I sympathize with the plight of the Native Peoples, in this case the fish and their rights are to come first. Most Aboriginal peoples do not need to fish for food, nor do they want to. To give them "more" rights, than other people, is wrong, and further causes problems for all, especially the fish!

- (1.) Control pick up broken fishing line, minnow containers and general garbage that gets left behind. (2.) Inform anglers not to fish in an area where pickerel rigs can break off and litter the lake bottom. Stronger fishing line could also be used as a prevention. Is there not a concern about the lead sinkers used by anglers and commercial fishermen alike? (3.) Is no one concerned about the dirty water pouring into Lake Manitoba from the Portage Diversion (Assiniboine River). Where are the burbot freshwater drum and carp coming from? The carp have been a problem for some time! They (carp) root out the weeds and make large holes in the lake bottom. Why allow more problems to develop when there are already problems? (4.) The watering of cattle from the lake both summer and winter still goes on. Rafts of manure sitting on ice can still be found floating around in the spring. Farmers should be assisted with the digging of in-land water supplies such as dugouts, wells, and water collection systems. (5.) The clear cutting of trees should not be permitted anywhere anymore. Trees hold back and slow down dirty run-off water. (6.) The public needs to be controlled where fuelling practices are concerned. Many people have been noted filling fuel tanks on the lake and gas has been pouring into the water. Have seen funnels carelessly emptied into water. The result is obvious. Minnows dead or dying, crayfish acting strange and countless water bugs grinding to a halt. (7.) The sale of "baby pickerel" should be brought to an immediate halt. Let them go - let them grow! This is a waste of a fine product and probably the result of small mesh nets. This is another reason why they should be banned! (8.) Keep hearing rumours about storing nuclear waste in Manitoba. As a concerned citizen I hope this isn't happening? (9.) Sawmills were a major pollutant of rivers and streams. Hope this problem has been addressed. (10.) New industries are springing up in the province. We would hope these and old industries are being properly monitored. Do hope that boats are also being properly cleaned and their movement checked. Finally dirt is a dirty word. Clean it up. Fish is of the utmost importance: "People who eat fish make better lovers!"

- Some comments that we have are; tourism has dropped terribly in Steep Rock Beach Park, as very poor fishing, and that's due to that Darn Small Mesh nets. Another place that has dropped very badly is Elm Point Campground and again due to no fish, so the nets have to go!

- Commercial fishing in Lake Winnipeg south basin should be severely limited. Greater emphasis on enforcement of illegally placed nets (mesh size, no treaty #, etc.) Full time enforcement presence on Red River (Lockport / Selkirk) in summer and fall. Increased marketing for carp, suckers, burbot.

- My name is..., formerly of Fairford, now of St. Martin, Manitoba. I have fished since 1977, 22 seasons (winter). I have fished lakes St. Martin, Winnipeg, and Manitoba, where I now fish. I've seen good times and bad, but have always been able to make a living fishing. Because of fishing, I don't have to rely on a job, which are hard to come by. All the money I earn goes back into the economy, (I don't

think any fisherman has a swiss bank account!)
I think the number of licences should be reduced on Lake Manitoba (commercial), this can be done by the government buying licences from fishermen leaving the industry. I also think fishermen shouldn't be eligible for Unemployment Insurance benefits, as this is a direct subsidy without which some fishermen would continue to fish. Fishermen should only be directly subsidized, by restocking, habitat enhancement, etc. from which everyone benefits. I'm also very concerned about the practice known as "smuggling", in which fish, usually walleye, are illegally taken, filleted, and sold to seafood stores or restaurants or individuals. Fish are usually taken when they are most vulnerable, during the spring spawning runs, mostly by Status Indians who use their right to fish for food as a "licence" to smuggle. Something has to be done to protect fish during this critical time, (spawning), perhaps the banning of food fishing during spawning, or banning of nets in spawning areas, mouths of creeks and rivers, and in creeks and rivers during spawning. I don't know how many fish are taken in smuggling, but however much is too much. I have personally known individuals involved in this activity, and they fall into two groups: The first group consists of relatively well off people, (new or newer trucks, nice homes and yards, etc.), The do it for extra income; The second group consists of poorer people, typically on welfare, who do it for quick cash, all too often for alcohol. The first group takes the most fish, as they are comprised of more highly motivated individuals and better equipment. Both groups don't have to do this, as the first group does it to pad an income they almost always have, and the second group almost always squanders the money made from this activity. Don't take this as a racist tirade, I myself am Status Indian. I would also suggest an increase in commercial licence fees up to $100.00, This is not an unreasonable amount, and it would raise a lot of money for stocking and habitat enhancement projects. Helper permits would be a token $10.00. I'm also concerned about fish that are caught and released by sport fishermen, Does anyone know how many of these fish later die because of injuries caused by rough handling, extraction of the hook, or exhaustion? Other than education, I don't know what can be done, you can't legislate compassion. Perhaps students could be hired to be roving, hands on instructors on the proper handling of fish, particularly on young fishermen, before they acquire bad habits they will carry for life. Two benefits would result from such a program: more caring sport fishermen, and much needed summer employment for students. To get back to the issue of reducing the number of commercial licences, any licence that is not used for three or more years should be declared inactive and removed from circulation, and the fisherman compensated by paying him the current market price for licences. The long term goal over the next 20 to 50 years should be to halve the number of commercial licences on Lake Manitoba, That would go a long way toward a more sustainable fishery, both commercial and sport. We must start now in making the difficult, but proper decisions which will result in the long term health of our industry, environment, and our world. Thanks for the opportunity to put my thoughts and suggestions down on paper, I hope they will be considered. Yours truly, ...

- I enjoyed the spirited and wide areas of interest in the various workshops. I attended 3 different zones and learned something at each meeting. This format of a take home package was very good. It will let people communicate their true feelings in a less intimidating environment than a public form. However, in future it would be even better if more of these books were available to those who want to participate, prior to the workshop. This would allow time for review and preparation for informed discussion at the workshops! Thank you.
- More education on the use and sustainable use of the resource. There is a good economic and social impact this resource as to Manitoba and all its people if it is managed properly for the betterment of all not just certain groups. After all is done we must remember we are only borrowing this resource off our children and grandchildren.
- (1.) The government must make every effort to preserve pristine areas for the good of the planet. How much hydroelectric development, mine development, infrastructure development, and clear cut logging is enough? Industry must not be allowed to dictate what goes on in this province. (2.) As well, why are fish considered a "resource"? Don't they have other values besides those that affect us? (3.) And why must there be a balance between economic development and the environment? Money means nothing to fish.

- This book should be written in plain English, or at least written in a way that the average person can understand.
- The raising and lowering of the water in the lakes by mechanical use as stop logs causing great fluctuations of the water, speed of the water and the amount of sediment in the water. Caused by the control dams at Jessica Lake and White Lake. The permanent structures such as the North Cross Sailing lake dam Mallard Falls dam and Betula Lake dams seem to work very well without the fluctuation of water.
- (1) 3 inch mesh size is ruining the fishing.
(2) Assiniboine Diversion also ruining the fishery.
(3) Farm chemicals destroying fishery.
(4) Suckers are junk fish and if we are going to catch them we must be paid a bonus. FFMC does not pay us enough to make it worth the time and cost.
(5) Help FFMC to improve.
- As a non-resident neighbour from North Dakota I really enjoy coming to your Province a couple of times a year to enjoy your trout fishing. As a member of the Dakota Fishing Club I promote catch and release and would suggest that you remain status quo with your present fisheries program. I would caution you not to end up like Montana where every stream is over run with the masses and controlled by big outfitters. Keep the handle on it now and don't let big business move in and ruin the good thing you've got going for your local people. Yes improve your fishing and encourage outside income for your economy, but know when is enough and set safeguards in place to keep it in check.
- I think that all fish should be raised and put back into the same water that they came from. For instance if you take fish spawn from Lake Manitoba the fingerlings raised from these waters should be put back in the same waters. I also think if our treaty people would leave the fish alone while they are in spawning grounds this would also help matters. You can't keep taking and not putting back. Doing this hurts the balance of fish stock no matter where or what kind of fish. I believe this is why our "tourism" has dropped to nothing. Commercial fishing has gone down to nearly none. It has a chain effect on the economy. I think that there has to be more control on what is happening with fish stock. Thank you.
- To implement these suggestions is a large undertaking. I wish those involved, endurance, patience, understanding of human nature.

8. Comments on the Public Participation Process

1. The following comments on the "Workbook", questionnaire and workshops were compiled from returned questionnaires.

- Thank you.
- This survey is too complicated, it should have been simpler.
- Am now a retired fisherman having fished quite a number of seasons on both Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba which I found very interesting.
- This questionnaire is very ambiguous. On many of these questions, would be inclined to agree. However, based on past government performance these subjects would be handled in a way that would not have the interested party's best interests at heart. Thank you.
- In my opinion this Manitoba Round table project is a total waste of money and as I said previously looks like a make work project on our hard earned tax dollar!
- Pardon me for not taking you people very seriously.
- I also think this questionnaire has too many bureaucratic questions.
- The "Workshop on Fish" and this questionnaire is, without a doubt, the most useless waste of our tax dollars. Why was it not written so the "average" person could understand it? It was probably written by someone with a great amount of schooling and very knowledgeable about things out of a book, but totally ignorant of the real issues regarding our lakes and the fishing industry in general.
- Good luck developing policies!
- I think this booklet is a good start but we have a long ways to go.
- Regarding your questionnaire: It is very long and drawn out and it seems to have been made up by someone with a very good education and is for college or university people with same. Keep your questionnaires to more common sense things in future if you can implement a small percentage (25%) of this paper you will be well on your way to a better fishing policy.
- You should also ask more direct questions. Not like your questions which you might agree with part but all.
- Information should be clear and concise. We feel that this book would benefit greatly by adhering to these two principles. Not all of the public has background info. The material should be simple, without just throwing in a bunch of clauses or impressive sounding words when the simpler version would be much more effective, easier to understand and generally would make people look more favourably on the material. If a person feels that the authors are trying to sound superior and technical they will immediately be turned off and will probably disagree with everything said.
- I attended the April 12/99 meeting at the wildlife building...As reported in the Thompson Citizen of April 14, 99 the meeting was a very lop sided affair with the Mayor of a tiny railway community, Thicket Portage, doing the vast majority of the talking. I was upset by his attitude and biased comments... And I left.
- This questionnaire is very vague, you might agree with part of the question but disagree with the other part. I think you could have been a little more to the point.
- By the quality of the enclosed questionnaire, I feel the Department of Manitoba Natural Resources is doing an exceptional overall job on the fishery resources.
- Excellent ideas, wonderful plans.
- This questionnaire was much too long and detailed for the average Manitoban to be involved.
- Thanks for the opportunity to comment on Manitoba's fisheries resources.
- Filling out the questionnaire is somewhat of a daunting task for many Manitoban's. The language used is not conducive to responses from many in the general public including: new Canadians, youth, and those

without an advanced education. There is a prevailing thought among groups and individuals involved in fish-related activities that the questionnaire was specifically designed for certain answers and opinions and that the intention was to only "appear" to be consulting with the general public. Secondly, there is not one workshop being held south of Hwy #1. Why? A major portion of Manitobans live south of Hwy #1, many who angle. The southern angling opportunities seem to be often forgotten. While we do not have lake upon lake as in some other areas, it just makes the bodies of water that we have is that much more important and vital. Workshops seem to be centred around commercial fishing areas. The questionnaire also seems to focus on economics and economic values beyond its actual value when dealing with a natural resource. On the positive side, I must commend the Fisheries Branch of Department of Natural Resources for the work involved in the workshops, workbooks and questionnaires and the Deptartment for following the route they have taken for consultation before implementation. Thank you for the opportunity to make my comments on our fish resource. - In my opinion there were away too many questions with almost the same meaning.

- Thanks for the opportunity to put my thoughts and suggestions down on paper, I hope they will be considered.
- I enjoyed the spirited and wide areas of interest in the various workshops. I attended 3 different zones and learned something at each meeting. This format of a take home package was very good. It will let people communicate their true feelings in a less intimidating environment than a public form. However, in future it would be even better if more of these books were available to those who want to participate, prior to the workshop. This would allow time for review and preparation for informed discussion at the workshops! Thank you.
- This book should be written in plain English, or at least written in a way that the average person can understand.
- Thank you.

2. The following comments on the "Workbook", questionnaire and workshops were compiled from Group workshop [Gimli, Lac du Bonnet, the Pas] comments.

- How much did this cost??
- Likes what's in the book but too complicated - needs to simplify into simple language. On a few pages with key points . Put ads on TV on what we're trying to do. CKY news - lots of community events - watched by a lot of people. Would take hours to review the workbook even if you had vested interest.
- The policies do not address the fisheries economic development fiduciary responsibilities to First Nations - timing of these meetings is poor - end of fishing season - March / April.

3. The following comments on the "Workbook", questionnaire and workshops were compiled from Staff workshop [Brandon, Dauphin, Garden Hill, Gimli, Lac du Bonnet, Norway House, Portage la Prairie, South Indian Lake and Thompson] notes.

- They found out about this meeting through their Game and Fish Association (which was having a meeting that night which is why only the two of them were out).
- Also, someone picked up a workbook at the Rural Forum in Brandon last week.
- Never saw anything on TV or in the paper.
- Brandon Sun, cable TV hits only Brandon residents - need to advertise in all the little local rural newspapers in small towns.
- Other fellow got info from the Cattlemen's Association.
- Game and Fish - likes slot limits.
- Language of workbook - He's a retired school teacher and he had trouble understanding it.
- Should be fisherman on Round Table.

- Will government take round table serious.
- Process-too little time to get all the information.
- Workbook / questionnaire not conducive to fishermen comprehension.
- Objective: Motherhood and Apple Pie.
- Can't argue with motherhood statements in work booklet.
- Nelson House meeting(s) recommended. Fish / Wildlife Meeting in Gillam recommended.

4. The following comments on the "Workbook", questionnaire and workshops were compiled from the public presentations and submissions received.

- There are no workshops scheduled south of Highway # 1. There is a very sizable population in southern Manitoba. The workbook is not put in layman terms. People have talked to the Manitoba Wildlife Federation that because of the wording is so hard to work with...The time line was much to short to do a proper work toward a hearing process.
- The truly dominant generator of money in the fishing industry is tourism. So why have so many tourist camp operators, business associated with tourism and Anglers not been sent this document? This document was given to me by a commercial fisherman of whom there are many in the north basin, feel the walleye and sauger are over exploited.
- Your questionnaire was so bureaucratic, I could not understand most of the questions. As well, keep it shorter and to the point. Next time I'll answer.
- We find the questionnaire very offensive from the point of view of being a waste of time and money. Before assuming that this negative response is simply anti-government, we want to strongly point out that this is not true. In fact, just the opposite is true. Everyone who generally support legitimate government roles and initiatives should be very alarmed and concerned about money wasting things like this because they become further symbolic examples that continue to erode the public's confidence and perceptions of efficient accomplishment in government. In this case, one can only assume once again that this questionnaire is about politics and bureaucracy rather than substance - an attempt, we suppose, to show that there is significant "public consultation" from a political point-of-view...The problem with this questionnaire is that the stated policies and questions are of such a high level that, for the most part, it is difficult to imagine that any knowledgeable and responsible person would not "agree" or "strongly agree" with them. It is like stating a policy that "airplanes should only fly in the air", and then we should do a public survey to see if everyone agrees. What is not clear, however, is why there seemingly exists such a compelling need to proclaim such 'high moral ground' policies.
- I thoroughly enjoy reading "The Work Book on Fish". It's a really good idea to keep mailing these out and maybe if you could keep making workbooks on how we as citizens have to take more of an interest, then maybe we could donate some money for a worthy cause... I hope you do more to keep these work books in the making and we can all make a change for a better world to live and survive like fish and wildlife.
- We commend the Manitoba Round Table for encouraging public participation through the workbook, questionnaire, and an ambitious schedule of workshops and presentation sessions.
- We also have a concern regarding the poor turnouts for the Round Table meetings for both strategies. Can the province truly say that all Manitobans were consulted when so few were involved in the process? As well, perhaps the sheer length of these Workbooks and questionnaires, and the language and use of terms that are not generally well understood, will prevent members of the public from submitting responses. Canadian Parks And Wilderness Society is interested in knowing how many written responses are submitted to the Round Table. If the numbers are small, will the Round Table make any other efforts to ensure that the views of Manitobans are included in the policies arising from these consultations? Perhaps a large, credible survey should be added to ensure that views are representative of the Manitoba public.

9. Public Presentations and Submissions Received

Manitoba Wildlife Federation

Treaty and Aboriginal Rights Research Centre of Manitoba

Mr. Cliff Leibert

Intermountain Sport Fishing Enhancement Inc.

Alan Thomson

Lake Manitoba Fish Enhancement Committee

Mr. John Bekers

Winnipeg Game and Fish Association

Ms Betty Abramoff

Fisheries and Oceans, Freshwater Institute

The Northern Aboriginal Community Fishing Industry

The Manitoba Cattle Producers Association

Manitoba Naturalists Society

Manitoba Chapter of Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

Manitoba Wildlife Federation, Larry Milian

1. There are no workshops scheduled south of Highway # 1. There is a very sizable population in southern Manitoba.
2. The workbook is not put in layman terms. People have talked to the Manitoba Wildlife Federation that because of the wording is so hard to work with.
3. That staff involved in these sessions put their direction on workshops.
4. There is biological data available to make comment.
5. These issues should be commercial and sport in two separate formats.
6. Lets look after native species of fish and not introduce other species to Manitoba.
7. Look at drainage ditches and dams on all rivers and streams in Manitoba before drainage projects are started.
8. The time line was much to short to do a proper work toward a hearing process.
9. It is nice to work with the Habitat People of fisheries. But they are so few in staff for the Province and local Biologist or Technicians do not have the time to devote towards projects
10. Fish enhancement Fund:
    a) Project identification
    b) Help in preparing the application for projects

Land Use and Resource Analyst, Treaty and Aboriginal Rights Research Centre of Manitoba, Recommendation from Dennis Peristy.

Provincial policy can not override federal constitutional rights of Aboriginals and consequently policies 2.1 and 2.2 as an example are not applicable to Aboriginals. "Aboriginal rights are supreme" in the Canadian Constitution. For example, policy 2.2 should not be a policy because the provincial government can not regulate a "constitutionally given right". There must be a real justification for sustainable development to even try and interfere with domestic use of the fishery, even if a species is threatened with local extirpation. Possible there could be "co-justification" between Aboriginals and the government for sustainable development.

All resources in any area impacted by Aboriginals are only "the resources of the Aboriginals". Often Aboriginals "feel ripped-off by government". The government can not make policies impacting First Nations domestic use of fish.

Government can not restrict fishing in spawning areas in one area of a lake, (even if the government feels the fish stocks in that lake are being depleted) if a neighbouring lake has a relatively healthy fish population. Aboriginals are not bound by the impacts of fishing on one lake, because they view their traditional fishing grounds as embracing broad expanses of terrain that may include many lakes. This view is held even if the lake in which the fish are declining is a land-locked lake.

First Nation's people do not want to be called "stakeholders" because they have their traditional rights that are constitutionally guaranteed. They feel all others are "interest groups" and could be labelled "Stakeholders".

Do not even try and force Aboriginals to use specific net size, because the government does not have the right or power to dictate such matters to Aboriginal people. Regarding "Policy 2.2g" Mr. Peristy agrees with this generally, however recommends that we exclude the word "domestic". Regarding Policy #2.2f he also recommends we drop the word "domestic" here because Aboriginals do not want to be told what to eat.

Mr. Cliff Leibert re: Bird River

Winnipeg 1 GNB1 He was brought up and raised there (Bird River). Fished as a youngster and there were tonnes of fish. Fishing is down. Believes this is due to speedboats going up and down in spring and washing spawn onto shore. Could these activities be curtailed until after spawning season is over?

Intermountain Sport Fishing Enhancement Inc. Presentation To Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development

Background: The Intermountain Sport Fishing Enhancement Inc. operates mainly in the Parkland region of Manitoba and has the following objectives:

1. To improve the productivity and carrying capacity of various types of game fish in all waters.
2. To educate the general public in the need for preservation and improvement of habitat.
3. To enhance and diversify angling opportunities.
4. Encourage proper eco-system management.

and other activities that achieve the above objectives.

Presentation: The Intermountain Sport Fishing Enhancement (I.S.F.E.) are pleased to support the High Management Status afforded to Lake Dauphin and its' tributaries. The Initiative of lowering the limit of walleye on Dauphin Lake will ensure a net gain in productivity for future generations of recreational fishers.

The existing initiative of closing the major tributaries of Dauphin Lake will again ensure a net gain by preserving the fish stocks and spawning habitat at a vulnerable time of the year. The existing initiative of transferring northern pike from the Dauphin Lake system will assist in the effective management of the preferred sport fishing species, the walleye. The Intermountain Sport Fishing Enhancement Inc. group support the continuation of the above initiatives and would suggest the following:

1. The I.S.F.E. be involved in the decision making process at the developmental stages of any initiatives that may affect this area or our mandate. i.e.,

Rumor regarding leech storage by consumers.

2. Support the continuation of existing harvesting levels of commercial fishing on Dauphin Lake and encourage research to develop permanent markets for rough fish and northern pike. I.S.F.E. support compliance to the established limits and encourage increased monitoring of the regulations.
3. I.S.F.E. support stronger penalties for illegal-marketing and illegal transport of market fish regardless of circumstance.
4. I.S.F.E. encourage an expanded stocking program in existing waters and support the establishment of new stocking waters for recreational fishing.

Summation: The I.S.F.E. appreciates and supports the past relationships offered us by the regional fisheries branch staff and anticipates continued communication to enhance our resources for the future.

Attachment: Sustainable Report on Fishing Issues
May 6, 1999

Sustainable Development of Fish Stocks
Alan Thomson

I would like to begin by stating that we as a group, tourism associated members and anglers have been trying to devise a strategy for four years to protect the fish resource management to allow for sustainable development that allows feasible co-existence of tourism and commercial fishing together. The fishing industry in this province is a 170,000,000 dollar business. Only 23 million of this revenue is derived from the commercial fishing program. Automatically, the remaining revenue and obviously most of the revenue is generated from the tourism industry associated with angling. Page 23 in the "Workbook on Fish" for the Manitoba Round Table is the source for the above data. (Overhead 1)

The Manitoba Natural Resources Annual Report 1997-1998 on pg. 79 shows that direct expenditure in the tourism trade has dropped by 15 million dollars.

If you look at pg. 23 "Workbook on Fish", the order of use for the fish resource is listed. (Overhead # 2)

1) Sustainable fish populations
2) Aboriginal obligations
3) Recreational fishing
4) Commercial fishing

The truly dominant generator of money in the fishing industry is tourism. So why have so many tourist camp operator, business associated with tourism and Anglers not sent this document. This document was given to me by a commercial fisherman of whom there are many in the North Basin, feel the Walleye and Sauger are over exploited.

Why let a 23 million dollar commercial industry that catches 90% of the fish stock jeopardize the tourist industry that generates over 100 million dollars in revenue on just a small percent of the fish stock.

Page 52 of the Workbook on fishing clearly states the fish resource is like money in the bank and we should be maintaining industries off the interest or excess. Reports that I shall address later clearly indicates that the commercial trade is borrowing well into the principal of fish which is dwindling both principal and interest available in the North Basin.

Government reports have clearly indicated that the commercial fishing industry harvests over 90% of the fish caught each year. It is crystal clear in this document that the government clearly understand the there is a problem in this lake and wants to address this issue. Pg. 18

Section 2.4b

Section 2.4f → quota management like the highly successful milk, egg, chicken and pig operations are a good idea

I congratulate you.

However I am curious why a 3 year small mesh contract that has one more year to go was counteracted when "The winter commercial fisheries of Lake Manitoba published in 1998 clearly indicated concerns for Lake Manitoba. Let's review this document.

Some estimates are that tourists spend $15-20/lb. when you include spin-off effects. However, tourist businesses and associated businesses have seen huge drops in revenue. This means reduced revenue for the government.

I firmly believe that we are at a point where if we stop small mesh now, Lake Manitoba can bounce back and we can indeed have sustainable development where both Tourist operators and associated businesses in association with commercial fisherman can run successful operations.

As it stands now commercial catches are down Tourist operations are experiencing difficulty. Associated tourist businesses have seen decline in revenue.

In the Eriksdale meeting the idea of splitting the North and South basin of Lake Manitoba be split into 2 fisheries was put forth. Ken Campbell at this meeting told us that the North and South basins are indeed different fisheries. Let's separate them. It was suggested that the North basin only 3 3/4 mesh is utilized. It is possible for Tourism, the main revenue source to co-exist with commercial fisherman as it used to be before the introduction of small mesh in the North Basin.
The resource must be protected now not next year.

Attachments

Lake Manitoba Fish Enhancement Committee

Gentlemen:

My name is Roger Granger, I am the chairman of the Lake Manitoba Fish Enhancement Committee. This committee was formed because we felt there is a problem with fish stocks depleting on Lake Manitoba. The members of our committee consist of Elmo Helgason past commercial fisherman and committee rep for RM of Siglunes Community Development Corporation, Terry Eyjolfson, Chairman of the West Interlake Tourism Association, Dick Klassen, Owner of Oak Bay Lodge on Lake Manitoba, Grant Tober, commercial fisherman, Karen Springer, committee rep from Whitetail and Walleye wildlife association, Alan Thompson, Elm Point Resort Lake Manitoba, Diane Price Hwy. 6 Service and chairman of the Ashern Chamber of Commerce, Steven Reykdale, Commercial Fisherman and committee rep for RM of Siglunes CDC, Gomer Plantz, Past Commercial Fisherman, Gary Burnett owner of Barney's Tavern, Grahamdale Gerald Falk, owner of Gerald's Marine, Vira Nord, committee rep from Whitetail and Walleye wildlife association, Willy Paulson, committee rep for Steep Rock Beach Committee. We also represent the R M of Siglunes, and the RM of Grahamdale CDC, As you can see, we represent a very large portion of the population of the north east side of Lake Manitoba. Representing such a large group should tell you that there is much concern for the fish stocks in this area.

Commercial fishing on lake Manitoba probably started at the same time as people moved to the area. It was a main source of income for the settlers. Angling also played an important role for the settlers. Some resorts sprang up 60 years ago and thrived on anglers coming for all over.

Please note that at this point we are concerned about the north end of lake Manitoba only and my report is to reflect that.

Today, the communities all around lake Manitoba still depend on commercial fishing and angling.

This is why it is so important to manage the lake in a way that will ensure strong fish stocks for years to come. In the late 80s fish stocks were high and consequently commercial fishing was booming. The commercial fisherman experienced record catches. Most commercial fisherman hired one or two men to work with him on the lake. This created jobs in our community in the winter when jobs were impossible to find. Tourism was also booming in the late 80s. We could see this when tourist resorts were springing up everywhere. The Narrows lodge expanded, Oak Bay Lodge opened up, Elm Point Resort opened up, and Steep Rock Beach was developed into a world class resort. This all happened in the space of a few years and all because fishing was good. These resorts created employment all summer in an area with high unemployment.

Today the commercial fisherman are struggling to make a living. Very few of them hire anyone because their catches are so small that they can't afford it. Some of them have just quit, sold out. This is all because fish stocks are down. The impact to our communities is severe. Unemployment was already high and now it is even higher.

When the fish disappeared, so did the anglers. The resorts are all but empty. They employ almost no one. Our stores in the communities are also suffering due to the loss of business from the tourists. People have to move out of the area to find work, so our communities are shrinking, putting a bigger strain on the remaining population.

I have mentioned that fish stocks have declined and I feel I should substantiate my allegations. I have summarized fish deliveries to FFMC from 1993 to 1997. My figures come directly from FFMC or Department of Natural Resources. It is broken down by year, regular season, small mesh season, north basin and south basin. As I previously mentioned we are concerned with the north basin only so I will talk only about the north end. My report shows that pickerel harvests have declined during the regular season by 67 thousand kgs from 1993 to 1997 or a 57% decrease. During the small mesh season there was an overall decrease of 78% since 1993. In 1993 more pickerel was harvested during the small mesh season than the regular season in a season that was supposed to harvest only perch and sauger.

Small Mesh started in the mid 80s as a perch and sauger fishery, to harvest these species that were under utilized. Presumably they were dying of old age. It was supposed to be in for only a few years but has continued ever since. Of course it is difficult to catch only perch and sauger in these nets so consequently pickerel was also harvested. The commercial fisherman were supposed to move their nets when more than 5% percent of their catch in one net was pickerel.

As years went by, the percentages changed because it was impossible to catch only 5% pickerel. The perch and sauger stocks were declining and the commercial fisherman were harvesting pickerel instead. After all they weren't going to spend a whole day on the lake and bring home only a few perch, when there was lots of pickerel to be had. The problem was that this percentage was on an honor system and not enforceable by Department of Natural Resources. The fisherman were catching pickerel that were too young to spawn, therefore not reproducing itself. It only stands to reason that it would be only a matter of time before the stocks are depleted.

In your Sustainable development workbook on fish you mentioned on page 7 that due to over harvest, catches of walleye and sauger have declined over the last 10-15 years in both lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba. Your book also mentions the collapse of walleye stocks on Lake Winnipegosis. We certainly don't want to see something like this happen on Lake Manitoba. I don't want to condemn all commercial fishing but only commercial fishing which harvests walleye with small mesh.

In a 1997 manuscript report by W. Lysac, it clearly states in several places that Lake Manitoba's walleye and sauger stocks have been overexploited. On page 92, Mr. Lysac quotes "Lake Manitoba's walleye and sauger stocks have been overexploited. Increasing effort and simultaneous use of two mesh sizes are the main reasons for this over exploitation. Perch yields have increased since the introduction of the small mesh fishery but the inability of commercial fisheries to selectively harvest perch without harming walleyes and saugers has eroded the stability of the walleye and sauger stocks by annually removing more fish flesh than the stocks can produce."

It should also be noted that the size of Sauger and Perch have also decreased due to small mesh.

Another clear indication that fish stocks are down, particularly walleye, is the decrease in anglers at the local resorts. The resorts are all but empty. It stands to reason that the anglers will not stay if they can't catch fish and it's a poor way to analyze this by saying that the anglers don't know how to fish anymore. Let's be realistic. The anglers of Lake Manitoba, like the rest of Manitoba, have agreed without arguments, to the changes in fishing regulations, such as the decrease in limits and barbless hooks. It is very hard for the anglers to agree with these changes when they see the commercial fisherman harvest thousands and thousands of pounds of baby pickerel.

I have talked about two industries in our area that are vital to the survival of our community and this committee is greatly concerned that if fish stocks are not managed properly we will loose both.

We can come up with many reasons for the decline of fish stocks on Lake Manitoba, such as the water quality, Aboriginal fishing in spawning areas, low water levels, poor spring runoff, poaching, farm pesticides washed in the lake, cormorants and on and on, but it's time we quit kidding each other and look at the most probable cause, Small Mesh. The Commercial Fisherman are constantly working on fish enhancement, such as rehabilitating Basket Creek, and setting up two portable fish hatcheries on Lake Manitoba but the view of the people around here is, what is the sense of rehabilitating a creek or setting up a rearing pond if the commercial fisherman are allowed to catch the fish before they are big enough to spawn.

This committee feels that if the fish stocks are to be brought back to an acceptable level for both the commercial fisherman and the tourism, small mesh has to be shut down. Please note again that we are talking about the north basin.

We would like to see the water quality controls enforced. We would like to see all spawning creeks shut down to all fishing for everyone till May 15th.

In general we would like to be a part of a process or a plan to rehabilitate the lake to bring fish stocks back to an acceptable level and to make sure that this level is maintained for ever. We want to work with the Fisheries Department and the Commercial Fisherman of Lake Manitoba to ensure sustainable development of fish on Lake Manitoba. We live in the area and we see first hand what is happening. It only makes sense that we should be involved in any discussions that affect the lake.

Gentlemen, we have a serious problem on Lake Manitoba, that has to be addressed immediately. Small Mesh cannot be allowed to continue even for one more season. It must be stopped now.

We have clear indications that fish stocks on Lake Manitoba are depleted. Indications that I have mentioned above such as The Manuscript from Manitoba Natural Resources, Fisheries by Mr. Lysac, such as your own work book states on page 7, such as the reports from FFMC, such as the reports from the resorts, such as fishing licenses sales being down in this area. I am sure that this information is available to the fisheries department more than to us, so why does it have to come to this. Why do we have to make presentations, send letters to the minister, have meetings, just to tell you what you already know, and to try to convince you to do what should have been done in the first place. The people in this area are fed up with the poor management and want changes. This committee would not have to exist if the lake was managed properly.

On behalf of the Lake Manitoba Fish Enhancement Committee, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing us to make this presentation and we would like to offer our services at any time.

Attachment: Issues Concerning the Long-term Viability of the Lake Manitoba Commercial fishery

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the commercial fishermen on Lake Manitoba, we would like to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our concerns regarding the disastrous direction the Lake Manitoba Commercial Fishery appears to be taking.

We believe that the long-term integrity of the lake must not be sacrificed for the sake of short-term gains.

Our families have harvested the lake as an essential part of our livelihoods for many generations. We believe that the sustainability of the fishery is paramount so that we may pass this resource on to future generations, in at least as good shape as we received it.

LETTER FROM DAVID OLSON, SEC/TREAS. LMCFA

Not all fishermen are in favour of small mesh nets, and not all fishermen in the north basin had a good 1994/95 season, contrary to a letter sent to the department late in January 1995. The letter addressed to Hon. Albert Driedger, was typewritten on the Lake Manitoba Commercial Fishermen's Association letterhead but in fact, was done without the approval of the board, Mr. David Olson, the Secretary / Treasurer of the board wrote this letter, and for personal reasons was expressing his own opinion.

PERCH FISHING

The three inch mesh industry began approximately nine years ago, with the intent of being a pulse fishery. It was originally intended as a means of fishing in regions of the lake where there were strong perch concentrations. When the fishery began, there were initial concerns about the young pickerel stocks being caught in these nets, but fishermen were assured that the perch fishery would not jeopardize the lucrative pickerel fishery.

Unfortunately, shortly afterwards the fishery evolved into a lake wide perch and sauger fishery, and vocal concern for the pickerel stocks began to dwindle at the departmental level. Safeguards originally set up to protect the pickerel stocks were ignored.

For the first few years, a large number of perch were caught in the three inch nets. Production records provided from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation show that over the past five seasons, more and more immature pickerel are being harvested with these nets. In some areas, up to 50 percent of the recorded catch was in the form of immature pickerel.

It takes approximately five years for a pickerel to reach spawning maturity (the three and three quarter inch size.) It is logical that, if the small mesh nets were going to hurt the pickerel stocks, fishermen would begin to notice a drop in their pickerel catches after five or more years after the introduction of the small mesh nets in the north basin.

The last good fishing year in general was 1991 (with the exception of isolated pockets of areas that have been good, particularly in the north basin). The majority of fishermen in the north basin saw a reasonable return for their efforts but since that time, overall production has steadily declined with a notable decrease in pickerel catches.

Isolated reports of good catches can be misleading, and do not reflect on the overall health of the lake. This was evident this year as fishermen from the southern parts of Lake Manitoba migrated north to one spot where fishing was reported good.

Exceptional weather conditions such as a poor freeze up have been blamed for the lack of fish. These weather conditions have been blamed for the past three seasons, but this is too much of a coincidence to explain three years of fishing.

Anglers are complaining to fishermen and business people living in the town of Ashern (a major stopover for fishermen and tourists) that there are no decent fish left to catch, interest in sport ice fishing and angling is declining.

We believe that the fishery has not been closely monitored nor hasn't been regulated as originally intended. Increased quotas, lowering of mesh sizes and cutbacks on lake enforcement by the Resources Branch are all contributing factors. We believe this lack of action to enforce the three inch season as originally intended has been a combination of government officials not wanting to make a decision which will anger some fishermen and pressure from vocal minority groups.

The shortsightedness of some fishermen who are strapped for cash or fishing in the winter and should not be attributed to all commercial fishermen.

FFMC

The Lake Manitoba Commercial Fishermen are unanimously in favour of the one desk selling policy as presently exists with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.

ENHANCEMENT

User groups should be involved with regard to fish enhancement, such as sport, native and commercial.

Due to poor condition of fish stocks possibly the three and three quarter fishing season should be closed on March 15, before the pickerel begin their spawning run.

CONCLUSION

The long-term integrity of the Lake Manitoba Commercial Fishery is of the utmost importance. If errors are made in managing this resource, they must be made on the side of caution. Pickerel have always been and will remain the most important resource of the lake. Pickerel stocks must be protected and harvested at the size which they will produce the greatest economic benefit. We don't want to be like the fishermen relying on Lake Winnipegosis who found themselves with a closed facility due to overfishing.

Human nature being what it is, conservation is not a natural tendency. Limits usually have to be enforced to ensure greed does not win over good sense.

Mr. John Bekers

Your questionnaire was so bureaucratic, I could not understand most of the questions. As well, keep it shorter and to the point. Next time I'll answer.

Winnipeg Game and Fish Association

RE: Sustainable Development Strategy on Wildlife - Workbook and Questionnaire

We have reviewed the above and submit the following comments in place of filling out the detailed questionnaire itself.

We find the questionnaire very offensive from the point of view of being a waste of time and money. Before assuming that this negative response is simply anti-government, we want to strongly point out that this is not true. In fact, just the opposite is true. Everyone who generally support legitimate government roles and initiatives should be very alarmed and concerned about money wasting things like this because they become further symbolic examples that continue to erode the public's confidence and perceptions of efficient accomplishment in government. In this case, one can only assume once again that this questionnaire is about politics and bureaucracy rather than substance - an attempt, we suppose, to show that there is significant "public consultation" from a political point-of-view.

The problem with this questionnaire is that the stated policies and questions are of such a high level that, for the most part, it is difficult to imagine that any knowledgeable and responsible person would not "agree" or "strongly agree" with them. It is like stating a policy that "airplanes should only fly in the air", and then we should do a public survey to see if everyone agrees. What is not clear, however, is why there seemingly exists such a compelling need to proclaim such 'high moral ground' policies.

As with most topics, the major issues and difficult decisions on wildlife and habitat management do not lie in these high level policies, but rather in the detailed principles, issues and rulings that lie underneath. These are the day-to-day issues such as the priority allocation of budgetary funds, elk ranching, spring snow goose hunt, spring bear hunt, etc., just to name a few. It is issues like this that will no doubt be the 'hot' topics at the public workshops - with little interest in whether "airplanes should only fly in the air".

In regard to all these detailed issues, for our part, the people that we trust above all others are the professional wildlife managers, professional biologists and related professionals whose training and job it is to 'do the right thing' based on training, science, biology, environment, studies and data. Furthermore, they must be allowed to do their jobs to the greatest extent possible and practical, unencumbered by politics and bureaucracy. Surely, the money spent on this questionnaire would have been better placed in the hands of these professionals, with their results and proposals on important issues professionally presented and justified to the public, if required. It is in this way that we will begin to restore some confidence in government efficiency, processes and actions.

Betty W.L. Abramoff

The Manitoba Round Table:

I thoroughly enjoy reading "The Work Book on Fish". It's a really good idea to keep mailing these out and maybe if you could keep making workbooks on how we as citizens have to take more of an interest, then maybe we could donate some money for a worthy cause.

I have helped someone commercial fish and also have done a lot of angling fishing in quite a few places throughout Manitoba. I did a lot of back packing and Island camping and fishing and now I think back to times we were ignorant and we did clean up our garbage. But at times where the water is a main concern are correcting our ways to clean up and that was years ago when I was married. I know my husband even though we are separated has always been very conscientious to the conservation and environmental needs. I think with these books it makes us even more aware at what we've done and have to do to save fish and clean up water. As it like were doing this recycling thing. From us to water, to fish, and causes bacteria, germs even to wildlife. Also there is a need to have people or conservation officers to check at commercial fishing docks are an abuse on carp and speed going in and out of the docks.

Maybe if there could be fines to people being ignorant to have more healthier fish by not contaminating the water. Maybe there is a way to create jobs for some people.

Also, my husband and I were fishing years ago at a place called Wasp Lake and maybe it should be checked out as we didn't catch any fish and it's a nice lake where maybe it could save some species — maybe it's the water and one there was fish there. One has to walk in as there is no place for motor boats and it is not a big lake but maybe could be a kind of research for stocking and looking after species. It is just an idea for you. It is out by Pointe Du Bois and eight foot falls area. You could contact the Natural Resource Department as they have people looking after - like George Lake Outfitters.

Also, maybe we could make people more aware of littering and garbage when there is facilities and containers for this but there is a problem again of ignorance in throwing garbage and cigarette out the vehicle windows to cause ant infestation and also fly problems. Maybe as island camping is nice a small fee to help stop the ignorance and help the environment and to start cleaning up.

I'm sure there is also a way for maybe more import and export around the world if more start to take an interest in this beautiful province which we by choosing ignorance and laziness to clean it up. I'm willing to do my share and help or contribute but there are problems in places where people who want a job there is no place to stay so maybe as citizens the government could research and help us move to improve water and resources. The environment as it seems we've gone out of our way to ruin something so beautiful if like you say we need to make the government more aware so this also includes the health minister as to water in homes and rural and urban areas.

I hope you do more to keep these work books in the making and we can all make a change for a better world to live and survive like fish and wildlife.

Fisheries and Oceans: Freshwater Institute

Dr. J. F. O'Connor
Director, Fisheries Branch
Manitoba Department of Conservation

Dear Joe:

Sustainable Development Workbook on Fish

My apologies for the delay in responding to your request for our comments on the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development's Workbook on Fish.

The following are our comments for your consideration.

1. The Workbook is a very positive initiative that discusses many issues surrounding fisheries in Manitoba.
2. The Workbook contains a number of valuable statements concerning the conservation and management of fish and fish habitat. For example: there is recognition of the Aboriginal right to fish for food and ceremonial purposes; recognition that fish habitat should be protected, restored or enhanced; a statement on no net loss; a statement on conservation as the first priority before Aboriginal use; and statements on cooperative management and ecosystem based management. These are consistent with DFO's objectives and approaches.
3. The Workbook addresses many issues. In consequence it is long, complicated and sometimes a confusing document. There are many "suggested objectives" and more than three dozen "suggested policies" in six policy areas. There appears to be overlap and duplication within these policy areas and suggested policies. For example, areas 2, 3 and 4 all deal with the management of fishery resources. We suggest that this policy framework be simplified.
4. The Workbook also contains a series of principles and guidelines that are the foundation for a sustainable development strategy. These could have been followed in this Workbook on Fish.
5. There appear to some problem areas such as protecting existing legal access and tenure rights to fish versus regulations versus compensation for loss of

allocation to meet treaty obligations. There is a statement about promoting the use of alternate species to meet Aboriginal food needs; this seems to be inconsistent with Aboriginal rights, especially is the intent is to allocate preferred fish species to other user groups.

6. Combining commercial and tourism uses of fish seems odd given that the tourism use is recreational fishing for allocation purposes.

I hope these comments are of use to you. Please let me know if you require further clarification.

Best Wishes,
R. McV. Clarke
Regional Director, Fisheries Management
Central and Arctic Region

Response to the Manitoba Introduction to Sustainable Development on Fish: By the Manitoba Natural Resources Department from: The Northern Aboriginal Commercial Fishing Industry, which includes the communities of the following: The Northwest Cooperative Fisheries Ltd. representing Outh Indian Lake Commercial Fishermen, Granville Lake Fishermen, Brochet Commercial Fishermen, Nelson House Commercial Fishermen, Lynn Lake Commercial Fishermen, Kinosea Commercial Fishermen, and Pukatawagan Fishermen's Association.

Prepared by:
Peter Sinclair
Commercial Fisherman
President
Pukatawagan Fishermen's Association

INTRODUCTION

There is no clear format in the Sustainable Development Workbook information on how Aboriginal people will have any jurisdiction in their Traditional Lands or any mention on how Aboriginal People will get Provincial or Federal Government assistance to enhance their social and economic development needs parallel to the living standards as the rest of the Canadian Establishment.

BACKGROUND ON TREATIES BETWEEN TREATY INDIANS AND CANADA IN RIGHT OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN:

The Crown assumed, by Treaty, binding obligation to preserve and protect First Nations. First Nations' Governments determine the terms, duties and form of the Trust. Under a Trust, the appointed Trustee is required always to act in the best interest, under the direction of, the beneficiary. The "Administration" of the Trust relationship may or may not include, as determined by First Nations' Government, the following:

1. To guard the First Nation's interests in respect of land and resources;

2. Property management;
3. Management of Affairs as specifically instructed by First Nations;
4. Provision of specific obligations and rights agreed upon by Treaty.

The trust responsibility of the Federal Government must be considered to be a constantly evolving doctrine responsive to the changing circumstances of the times. Certain broad concepts are put forward which should guide future policy in relationship to the trust doctrine.

1. The trust responsibility for First Nations in Canada extend from the protection and enhancement of First Nations Trust Resources, First Nations' Rights and First Nations' Government, to the provisions of Economic and Social Programs necessary to raise the standard of living and social well being of the First Nations' people to a level comparable to that of non-Aboriginal society;
2. The Trust responsibility extends through the Band of the Band Members whether on or off Reservations.
3. The Trust responsibility applies to all Canadian Agencies (Federal Provincial and Municipal) and not just those charged specifically with the Administration of Indian Affairs.

"The Treaties provide protection and Trust. Therefore, any laws made under that protection and Trust could hardly apply to all Indians. The Federal and Provincial Governments could not be excluded from such legislation. In fact, it is these two legislative bodies that it must affect the most."

"BNA Act. Sec.91(24) 1867 and the Constitution Act 1982, Sec. 25(1) and (2), Sec.35(1)"

HISTORY OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND THE POLICIES OF THE MANITOBA GOVERNMENT:

1. Aboriginal and Treaty Fishing Rights:

The Manitoba Government recognizes that Indian people may fish for food on unoccupied Crown lands and waters without a licence. The Government of Manitoba did not respect the rights of the Treaty Indian prior to the ruling of the Sparrow decision by the Supreme Court of Canada. All new policies initiated by the Manitoba Natural Resources Department were, prior to the Supreme Court decision, used to impose hardship on Treaty Aboriginal People. For instance requiring Indian People to obtain a food fishing licence. Disallowing Treaty Indians to fish for sturgeon even for sustenance. Disallowing Aboriginal People from hunting migratory birds for sustenance, thus clearly infringing on their Treaty Rights. Taxing Indians with PST and GST.

On page ten of the legal framework governing fish resources in the Manitoba Round Table for sustainable development, it mentions that Manitoba does not require Indians to hold a food fishing licence, however Saskatchewan and Alberta each require Indian People to obtain a food fishing licence. The Treaties of 1867 are the same across Canada and cannot be interpreted to mean different from Province to Province. The Provinces cannot change the laws of the Constitution.

These are the types of policies that are inconsistent by Government input when it comes to respecting the Rights and Jurisdiction of Treaty Indian People. For example, displacement of Aboriginal People from their lands and resources. In most instances, opportunities are available for Aboriginal People to take advantage of their resources by applying for funding to start a Hunting and/or Fishing Lodge. Most cases, attempts by Aboriginal People to get into these types of business operations fail because a number of strikes are thrown against the would be Aboriginal Businessman even before any funding is in place. One example is the history of the Kikiwak Inn of the Opasquia Cree Nation, where Indian Affairs did not have the trust and confidence of the Chief and Council that the hotel would become a viable and successful undertaking. Today the Kikiwak Inn is a thriving successful business.

In 1969, when the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) was introduced without prior consultation with Aboriginal People, some Northern Commercial Fishermen went bankrupt because all the Private Fish Buyers that were also the Managers of the community commercial fishing operations were removed or were bought out by FFMC. As a result, all Aboriginal fishermen became their own managers and not being managers went bankrupt.

As a result, several Northern Manitoba Lakes became angling and tourist operations because the Aboriginal People were not utilizing these lakes that were traditionally theirs to harvest and extract a way of life from them.

Those non-Aboriginal people that understood the fish business applied for Commercial fish licences for the non-utilized lakes and got licences from the Natural Resources Department to lakes that rightfully belong traditionally to Aboriginal Families, that also held commercial fish licences to those lakes prior to FFMC. Since then, several injustices have been dealt to the Aboriginal People because of over zealous Government Policies under the guise it would benefit everyone including Aboriginal People.

An example to demonstrate and the following is proof that Aboriginal Economics and the Social structure are controlled by Governments. The Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation is a prime example of how the Aboriginal Commercial Fishermen's economics and social well being is controlled by the FFMC Act whenever they try to get out of the monopoly. FFMC has never worked to benefit the Aboriginal Commercial Fishermen. Instead of assisting him get a fair return of his efforts, the Aboriginal Fishermen have suffered economically and socially because of those restriction imposed upon him by the FFMC Act.

On Page 11 of the sustainable development information, it says on the Fish Marketing item... Since 1969, the FFMC, a federal Crown corporation, has the exclusive jurisdiction over export and inter-provincial sales of commercially caught Manitoba fish under the FFMC Act, 1985. The corporation was established to ensure fishermen received a reasonable fair return for their efforts and investment and to maximize economics of scale through "single desk marketing" of fish.

Nothing could be further from the truth then the above statement; the Manitoba Government has known for over a decade that the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation is not good nor is it viable for the North and that it has been under pressure from Northern Manitoba to allow the Northern Aboriginal Commercial Fisheries be exempt from FFMC. If FFMC is allowed to carry on representing a false economic picture for the Northern Aboriginal Commercial Fishery, then it will further erode what is left of a fragile Aboriginal economic and social situation.

The Northern Manitoba Aboriginal Commercial Fishery has been deliberately bankrupt by FFMC's recent unilateral move by down grading all whitefish to cutter in most major northern whitefish lakes without any consultation to the Aboriginal Fisheries. Without whitefish to buoy the freight costs it is impossible to have a viable fishery. The Northern Commercial Fishery cannot survive on Pickerel alone.

In the sustainable development information on page 6 ... it says... fish have an important source of food since the beginning of habitation and to this day are integral to the lifestyle and culture of the Aboriginal community. The Aboriginal People know this... just like the old saying... a man cannot live on bread alone ... Aboriginal Fishermen cannot live on fish alone... we think the Governments must quit pacifying the Aboriginal People and start recognizing that Aboriginal People need social and economic development on the same understanding and parallel as the rest of Canadian Society.

It continues to say;..."today, recreational angling in the province contributes to our quality of life and economy" ... As soon as it is not Aboriginal concern, Governments mention the fact that the quality of life and economic well being is necessary for the rest of Manitobans, but Aboriginals are only interested to eat fish and nothing more.

It continues to say... that... increasingly, Manitobans have become aware of the need to protect and maintain streams and aquatic environments as critical components of the planet upon which not only fish but our existence depends. Since the inception of tourist lodges and tourism in Northern Manitoba, Northern Aboriginal People have been displaced from their traditional lands and from their resources, their rivers dammed up and their lakes diverted, their fish blocked off from migrating normally, their forests awarded to forestry Corporations, their trapping industry leveled by animal rights activists, fluctuating water levels on lakes and rivers caused by hydro dams, thus causing mercury to get into the food chain, affecting fish spawning grounds and tributaries drying up, thus affecting migratory species such as the pickerel, perch and goldeye from their traditional spawning grounds.

All non-marketable fish are thrown in the bush by Aboriginal Fishermen because FFMC cannot find markets and the Province of Manitoba has looked the other way from the waste of a resource since 1969. Instead of the Department of Natural Resources seriously listening and supporting the complaints and pleas of the Northern Fishermen, it continues to support a handful of non-Aboriginal fishermen out of Gimli, Manitoba. They continue dictating to the rest of the commercial fishermen through strong political support, to keep a useless Corporation eat at the labors of poor Aboriginal Commercial Fishermen in the designated FFMC area.

One of the greatest waste and destruction of otherwise healthy fish stocks and healthy lakes, is the fact that Aboriginal Commercial Fishermen are not allowed to harvest non sports angling fish like the whitefish and the tullibee from tourist lodge lake operations. No net fishing is allowed in those lakes designated for angling by lodge operators. The jackfish and other carnivorous fish eat parasitic fish and when those fish lay their eggs at certain spawning seasons, the snails eat the eggs that are infected with the parasitic cyst and the whitefish being bottom feeders eat the snails and they become cyst infected. What happens is that whitefish and tullibee become so abundant and because they are bottom feeders, eat everything in their path. The quality of the fish stocks and the lake declines very rapidly over a period of time.

It is not very difficult to put two and two together to see the direction and why the governments are trying to force the Aboriginal Peoples to accept their plans and policies. One only has to look at the information on page 6 of the sustainable development information on the heading ... "why a fish strategy"... Some facts to consider...

1. *15% of Manitoba's 665,000 square kilometers of area is fish-bearing waters.
2. *In total, Manitoba's fish resources generate $170,000,000 annually in direct expenditures and income generated from fishing. An estimated additional $ 60,000,000 is generated in spinoff benefits.
3. *Since 1988, an average 168,800 recreational angling licences were sold annually in Manitoba.
4. *In Manitoba recreational anglers fish over 2.2 million days and spend over $ 80,000,000 directly on angling, most $ 30,000,000 of this spent by anglers from outside Manitoba.
5. *Over 100 Manitobans are licenced in the bait fishing industry, which has annual gross sales in excess of $ 650,000
6. *In 1996/97, there were 3325 individuals directly involved in Manitoba's commercial net fishing industry as licenced fishermen and helpers and they harvest 12 million kilograms of fish.
7. *The commercial net fishing industry annually contributes over 23,000,000 to Manitoba's economy.
8. *In remote Aboriginal communities, fishing for food continues to be an important part of the culture and lifestyle (another example that Aboriginal People are only interested to eat fish).
9. **It has been theoretically estimated that the total potential sustainable yield of fish from Manitoba waters is 36 million kilograms.
10. *Fish are excellent indicators of environmental health.

Information on page 7, in the Sustainable Development workbook on fish, it mentions, that due to overharvest, catches of walleye and sauger have declined over the last 10 - 15 years in both lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba. Moreover, the walleye stocks in Lake Winnipegosis have collapsed, with harvests far less than a healthy ecosystem would produce. The reader should compare the following information where the Government is trying to associate the decline in pickerel and sauger on the fault of overharvesting by gill net fisheries by saying in the same sentence and paragraph "that high transportation costs and lack of other employment opportunities continues to be a problem for Manitoba's northern commercial net fishing operations.

The reader should check the above information on item 2, and reason, that 168,800 anglers have taken out since 1948 to 1990 the allowable daily creel limit of 15 with a possession limit of 30 fish, all of which could be walleye. Even if we used today's conservative numbers we would still come up with a staggering amount of fish taken out daily by Manitoba anglers and anglers from outside of the province and anglers from other countries.

Let us use the full number using a probability that the total of 168,800 anglers went out to take their daily limit of 30 walleye per day for a period of six months.

a. 180 days x 168,800 x 30 = 911,520,000 pickerel. The average weight per fish would be 2.5 lbs. Per fish would equal 2,278,800,000 pounds of fish in six months. The annual 45 million pounds of net fishing harvested by Northwestern Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Northwest Territories, combined; is certainly a far cry from what the Angler harvests annually from Manitoba lakes. The difference, is the fact, that the angler harvest the cream of the crop species, namely pickerel, perch, goldeye and sauger.

POLICY AREA - 2:
Allocation and Supply - on Page 22

Suggested Objectives:

1. To manage the supply and allocation of Fish Resources on a sustainable basis while optimizing environmental, social and economic benefits and opportunities for Manitobans and minimizing resource user conflicts.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

1. The above statement can only be reached and recognized by Aboriginal People, if the Federal and Provincial Governments accept a Task Force comprised of knowledgeable resource users and key Aboriginal individuals from Northern Manitoba, that will sit down with Policy Decision makers to reach, through sensible negotiations, the jurisdiction of resources acceptable by Treaty Aboriginal People.
2. There has to be a Federal and Provincial Government input, to make a viable fisheries economic development initiative and grants available from both Government levels to assist with Commercial Fisheries Infrastructure, i.e.,; transportation subsidies until the industry becomes viable, blocks, ice houses, combination fish holding and filleting facilities, with walk-in freezers walk-in coolers and ice machines. The Northern Manitoba Aboriginal Commercial Fishery has to be allowed to get out of FFMC entirely, if it is to become a viable industry, and for continued community employment opportunities.
3. The tourist industry has to cooperate with the Commercial Net Fishing Industry and to allow commercial fishermen to pulse fish whitefish and tullibee from the angling lakes.
4. Domestic fishermen be allowed to sell fish to those individuals that can't fish for themselves and that require fish for their diets and cultural purposes.
5. The Province of Work in Partnership with a joint management fisheries initiative with Aboriginal People to fully understand the principles and traditions of Aboriginal People. Aboriginal Conservation Workforce Training Programs be set up.
6. The Resource Areas traditionally belonging to Aboriginal families and Northern Communities be re-examined by the Governments and Aboriginal People together, to come up with a better strategy to fully understand Aboriginal jurisdictions and why it is necessary for Aboriginal People to get out of their oppressed economic and social situations.

There has been a number of Supreme Court decisions in favor of Aboriginal interests.

Prepared by:
Peter Sinclair
Aboriginal Commercial Fisherman
President
Pukatawagan Fishermen's Association

Note

Further comments to the Manitoba Round Table Discussions on Sustainable Development of Fish by Mathias Sinclair, President of the Northwest Cooperative Fisheries Limited.

To further strengthen our argument and the fact that we have been trying to convince Governments to recognize our request for changes on how the commercial fishery is regulated under the auspices of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation Act and thus the operating regime of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, it is interesting to note the relevance of an editorial entitled, "Escaping Poverty - April 8, 1999 - Winnipeg Free Press".

For those hundreds of thousands of readers of the largest new publication in Manitoba the possibility of "mass misconception" is very real because they take the printed word of someone from a reputable newspaper and consider it "fact".

For those of use who live with the "cold hard facts of life" on Manitoba's Indian Reservations nothing could be further from the truth.

Our reason for raising this editorial is to point out what we have been saying for a long time. The commercial fishery as a sustainable and viable resource can be utilized to its fullest capacity by residents of Manitoba's Indian Reservations if the willingness of Governments to initiate change is there.

Yes we firmly believe that in this case, Government "can. . . # . . ." simply create jobs at the flip of a switch.

According to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation Act, the Minister of the participating Province can recommend, suggest, initiate changes, on the application of the Act. It is the Minister's ultimate responsibility.

In answer to sustainable development and our recommendations on fish as a renewable resource, we know what we are taking about. We, on Manitoba's Indian Reservations, need not live in perpetual poverty.

Submitted by;
Mathias Sinclair
President
North West Cooperative Fisheries Limited

Attachment

Manitoba Cattle Producers Association

Round Table for Sustainable Development Fish Strategy

On behalf of the 14,000 cattle producers in Manitoba, the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association is pleased to have the opportunity to comment to the members of the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development with respect to the Fish Strategy.

The Manitoba Cattle Producers Association will continues to work with Natural Resources to encourage cattle producers to maintain high water quality through manure management and sustainable operations. When contamination is suspected, water should be tested both above and below the questionable source.

Although the general trend is to fence cattle off riparian pasture, this is not always the best approach. Managed grazing controls brush which discourages beaver colonization. Beaver dams prevent fish movement upstream and subsequent spawning.

Complete environmental studies must be finished before water diversions are attempted to make sure our lakes will not be contaminated by foreign fish species, noxious weeds such as leafy spurge or pollution from any source as well as flooding and related damage to producer's property. Compensation should be paid to producers for loss of crops and pasture as a result of this type of flooding.

It is the hope of the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association that we can continue to work together for the mutual benefit of all parties to ensure a sustainable future for all.

Respectfully submitted,
Manitoba Cattle Producers Association

Manitoba Naturalists Society

Hon. J. Glen Cummings, Chairperson
Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development

Dear Mr. Cummings and Round Table Members:

On behalf of the Manitoba Naturalists Society (MNS), I wish to comment on the proposed Sustainable Development Strategy for Fish, as detailed in the Workbook on Fish released this spring for public review and comment.

Our organization consists of approximately 1500 Manitobans who share a deep attachment to, and appreciation of, nature. The MNS has long served as a dedicated, but rational, defender of wild species and the habitat that sustains them. Many of our members are fishers; many others are not. We believe that our position on this issue reflects the views and concerns of a significant percentage of Manitobans.

We commend the Manitoba Round Table for encouraging public participation through the workbook, questionnaire, and an ambitious schedule of workshops and presentation sessions. The MNS relies almost entirely on volunteer efforts and, unfortunately, we were unable to make a formal presentation at any of these public sessions. We trust, therefore, that this brief will serve to communicate our position and concerns pertaining to this issue. The comprehensiveness of the suggested policies makes it difficult to respond in detail, so we will not attempt to respond individually to every policy. Rather we will comment generally on the document content and on the major policy areas, and make detailed comments about a few specific policies and suggested applications.

General Comments

The concerns of the MNS with this draft strategy on fish are based more on the emphasis and on the omissions from the document than on the specific objectives and policies that are included. As briefly noted on page 6 (Why a Fish Strategy), fishes live within complex, intricate ecosystems. Fish populations could not survive without the myriad of phytoplankton and macrophytes that serve as the primary producers of these systems. They could not survive without the zooplankton, benthic species and other invertebrates that are important links in the food web of these systems. They could not survive without the bacteria and other decomposers that are essential to the decomposition of organic matter and the recycling of nutrients in these systems. Unfortunately, the policy area sections of the workbook effectively fail to address or acknowledge this elemental understanding. We wonder why the Round Table has not produced a workbook on Aquatic Ecosystems.

It is disappointing to see that the authors of this workbook have chosen to lump together a variety of aquatic organisms under the generic term"fish" (Page 11). When are we going to recognize that this simplistic approach is inadequate to ensure the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems, or of fish populations? Biological diversity is widely recognized as a cornerstone of ecological sustainability, and is included in Manitoba's fifth principle of sustainable development (page 3) . While the first objective in Policy Area 1 calls for maintenance of biodiversity, discussion of the concept is effectively absent from the balance of the workbook, another indication that the focus of this document is misdirected.

The focus, and most of the content, is clearly aimed at human economic use of fish (and certain other aquatic species). While we acknowledge that this is important to a significant minority of Manitobans (including some of our members), it should not be the primary purpose for protecting fish and enhancing fish habitat. We cannot find in this document any recognition that fish, or other aquatic species, have an inherent right to exist. Should not this be a basic tenet of provincial policy? At the very least, fish and other species have an essential role to play in ecosystem integrity, which ultimately impacts on the ability of all species to exist. This is not reflected in the suggested policies.

Policy Area 1:
Environmental Enhancement and Protection

The objectives and suggested policies in Policy Area 1 are generally worthy of our full support. We note, however, that none of the suggested policies specifically mentions maintenance of biological diversity. Protection of ecological integrity must be the prime consideration if Manitoba's fish populations, and the ecosystems that sustain them, are to remain healthy. Biodiversity is an integral part of ecological integrity. Protection of aquatic habitat and the productive capacity of our aquatic ecosystems is essential for maintenance of fish populations.

The stated goal of habitat "enhancement" is valid only if we are dealing with degraded ecosystems. We should not attempt to "enhance" healthy, natural ecosystems by manipulating them to channel more of the system productivity into commercially important species, at the expense of naturally occurring, non-commercial species. This is the approach typically taken in agriculture, and increasingly in silviculture. It inevitably leads to reduced biodiversity. Such actions may produce short-term economic gains, but are often a recipe for the eventual collapse of such systems. Also, while Application 1.1A will be important is some circumstances, it must be recognized that hatchery-produced fish, with their reduced genetic diversity, are poor substitutes for naturally produced fish.

Policy Area 2:
Allocation and Supply

At first glance, the objective for Policy Area 2 contains all the right words. However, we have concerns about Manitoba's ability to simultaneously "optimize" all the stated goals. The objective is ideal, but probably not realistic . We stress that the ecological sustainability and biological diversity of fish populations and their habitat must be paramount, and we are pleased to see that this is partially addressed by the first-listed policy. This sustainability must include all fish populations, plus populations of other naturally-occurring species, not just those with economic significance. Indeed, the primary policy statement might better read:

> 2.1 The sustainability of ecosystem integrity shall be the first priority in the allocation of fish stocks".

Do we really know enough about the productive capacity of our aquatic ecosystems? Given the present state of our understanding, can we effectively maintain ecological sustainability, and "manage" the supply and allocation to also optimize social and economic benefits and opportunities? The MNS is concerned that not enough resources are being allocated to research and monitoring, and that the Fisheries Branch is being asked, in the absence of sufficient knowledge or resources, to take on an impossible task. Suggested policy 2.9 refers again to stocking programs. Do we really know the long-term effects of fish stocking? What are its implications for other species in the ecosystems? While the priority is claimed to be ecosystem protection, there is a none-too-subtle emphasis on economic issues. For instance, Application 2.9a proposes to evaluate stocking programs primarily on their economic viability and on their ability to meet "resource" enhancement and management objectives. In this document, Manitoba's fish populations continue to be viewed more as a "resource" for humans than as an integral and essential component of healthy, aquatic ecosystems. Are we not in danger of promoting over-exploitation?

Policy Area 3:
Development and Use

This same theme is carried through Policy Area 3. All over this planet, fish populations are suffering and disappearing because of overuse by humans. Do we really know enough about the fish populations in Manitoba to actively encourage increased use of these "resources"? If we are going to have an objective which encourages "use and development of fisheries resources", the first policy must be:

> 3.1: Research and monitoring of aquatic ecosystems and their fish populations to adequately assess the feasibility and advisability of promoting the use and development of these fish populations in an environmentally sound manner shall be fully funded and supported.

If we can determine, through solid scientific research and analysis, that there is ecological justification for expanded utilization of Manitoba's fish populations, then the other suggested policies in this policy area have some validity. Without this vital information, we are simply gambling with the long-term viability of these populations and the ecosystems that support them. It is highly probable that we are already over-utilizing some of the fish populations in this province.

Under Policy 3.5, we note that the Round Table is promoting further "transfer of administrative authority for fish habitat management" from the federal to the provincial government (Application 3.5c), and "elimination of federal- provincial regulatory duplication and overlap" (Application 3.5d). While we support elimination of unnecessary duplication, we have little confidence that the Province of Manitoba is prepared to allocate sufficient resources to ensure that fish habitat is effectively protected. Some redundancy is often desirable to avoid "loopholes" and to ensure that the highest standards of protection are being provided. When our planetary life-support systems hang in the balance, the MNS prefers to see all levels of government taking proactive roles to ensure that they are protected.

Policy Area 4:
Planning and Integrated Management

We firmly support the implementation of integrated, ecosystem-based planning, as stated in the first objective of this policy area. However, this approach will remain largely academic without adequate baseline information and ongoing ecosystem monitoring. While considerable social and economic information probably exists, we question whether the available ecological database will support meaningful ecosystem-based planning. This does not mean that the principles should be rejected. It simply means that substantial resources must immediately be directed into obtaining such baseline information and maintaining this essential knowledge base through implementation of scientifically valid, long-term monitoring programs.

Some of the suggested policies in this area continue to connote a subtle economic bias. Much of the terminology is from the fields of economics and business, rather than from ecology. For instance, policy 4.6 wisely speaks of including "natural capital" in a provincial accounting system. It refers again to "fish resources" as part of this natural capital. Why does the document not speak of natural ecosystems, fish "populations" and "communities"? The importance of fish goes well beyond their direct economic value to we humans. The language used does not communicate this deeper value. Can we really place meaningful economic value on the living populations and life support systems of our planet?

We also question the advisability of using the term fish "management". When we have such limited understanding of these populations and the ecosystems that support them, it is presumptuous, perhaps even arrogant, to assume that we can truly manage wild ecosystems and populations. We can manage our human activities, however. This requires enlightened legislation, policies and regulations, effective public education, and appropriate enforcement. The best regulations are of little value if no one follows them. Recently, the Province of Manitoba, along with many other jurisdictions across Canada, have been reducing the level of support for public education and enforcement pertaining to fish and wildlife regulations and guidelines. The MNS strongly recommends that this trend be reversed.

In draft Policy 4.7, we note that the Roundtable again promotes elimination of "red tape and duplication" and harmonization of "federal and provincial legislation and powers" (page 53). As we stated in reference to Policy Area 3, redundancy in a protective system is often valuable. Do not reduce the mechanisms for protection of fish habitat and populations to the lowest common denominator as a means to facilitate the economic exploitation of fish populations.

Policy Area 5:
Public Awareness and Education

While the MNS fully supports the suggested objective for this policy area, we are concerned that the educational message may be flawed. The figure accompanying objective 5.1 (on the left side of page 54) in the workbook, diagrams "three cornerstones" of society; namely social, economic and ecological elements. We argue strongly that these are not equal, and that the underlying concept of this diagram is not correct. The ecological support structure of our society is paramount because it provides the very life support system on which humans, and all other species, must depend (see page 6). All economic and social aspects of our society depend absolutely on the health of our ecosystems. Various human societies have been, and are, effectively supported by a variety of economic and social systems, as recognized in Policy 5.3. All human societies, indeed all life forms on this planet, are part of, and absolutely depend on, a single planetary ecosystem.

Policy Area 6:
Human and Property Health and Safety

We support the suggested objectives and policies listed for this policy area, provided that they continue to be promoted and pursued within the greater context of ecological integrity and maintenance of biological diversity.

Summary

In conclusion, let me summarize the MNS position and our primary concerns with the objectives and policies suggested in the Workbook on Fish.

Fish populations have served as food for humans for longer than history records. In recent times, fishing has become a major recreational pursuit for a significant number of people, and this has resulted in important economic opportunities for others. However, there is mounting evidence that many fish populations are now under stress from over-utilization. Commercial fishing on Manitoba's great lakes has seen "better times". Sturgeon populations in this province have been reduced to crisis levels. Many eastern and northern Manitoba lakes are low productivity systems in which the fish communities are sensitive to heavy angling pressures. Catch-and-release fishing is an option in these systems, but may also result in high fish mortality during warm water periods. Fish are important economically, but they are not an inexhaustible "resource". The line between sustainable use and exploitation is often difficult to recognize until we have crossed it.

The overall language and tone of the workbook document places too much emphasis on the economic context of Manitoba fish. While this is obviously important to a select group of Manitobans, it is far from the only context within which the value of fish must be addressed. Recreational and spiritual values associated with fish are also important to many of our members, and to other Manitobans as well. Cultural values are obviously important to many First Nations people. Overriding all these values, however, is the integral role of fish populations and communities in the aquatic ecosystems of our province, and beyond. Fish are primarily important because they are integral to these essential ecosystems, not because humans use them.

We recognize, however, that Manitobans do use fish and will continue to use them. We support objectives and policies that will promote and ensure the sustainable use of these species and maintain the ecological integrity of the ecosystems wherein they live. We firmly believe that such policies can be effective only if the government and citizens of Manitoba are prepared to fund and support ongoing research and monitoring programs to gain essential ecological knowledge for guiding management of human activities affecting fish populations and habitat. Of course, even with expert knowledge and enlightened policies and legislation, effective public education and enforcement will also be essential to ensure the sustainability of our aquatic ecosystems and their fish populations.

Sincerely,
John Shearer
Action Vice President

Manitoba Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

The Honourable Glen Cummings, Chair

Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development

Dear Mr. Cummings:

Enclosed are the responses of the Manitoba Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) to the Sustainable Development Strategy for Fish as presented in the workbook on Fish and the Sustainable Development Strategy for Wildlife as presented in the Workbook on Wildlife. As you know, CPAWS is a Canadian volunteer organization dedicated to the protection and maintenance of existing provincial and national parks, the implementation of new protected areas, and theprotection of wilderness and wildlife (terrestrial and aquatic) across Canada.

We apologize for the lateness of these responses, but it is somewhat difficult for volunteer organizations to get together to work on issues over the summer holiday period; we have also been trying to deal with other issues; and we wished to submit a comprehensive response to these important provincial strategies.

The quote on page 1 of both Workbooks from the 1987 report of the National Task Force on Environment and Economy which states that it is not necessary to protect the current stock of natural resources or any particular mix of human, physical and natural assets is not representative of the whole of that report nor is it representative of current writings about sustainable development, the need to use the interest only, to protect our natural capital, and to protect options for use or preservation of natural assets for future generations. The quote, however, does set the stage for the focus in both Workbooks on utilization of natural assets by this generation.

We also have a concern regarding the poor turnouts for the Round Table meetings for both strategies. Can the province truly say that all Manitobans were consulted when so few were involved in the process? As well, perhaps the sheer length of these Workbooks and Questionnaires, and the language and use of terms that are not generally well understood, will prevent members of the public from submitting responses. CPAWS is interested in knowing how many written responses are submitted to the Round Table. If the numbers are small, will the Round Table make any other efforts to ensure that the views of Manitobans are included in the policies arising from these consultations? Perhaps a large, credible survey should be added to ensure that views are representative of the Manitoba public.

It is our understanding that both The Fisheries Act and The Wildlife Act are to be reviewed and revised as a result of these strategies. Since both of these Acts are presently primarily allocation Acts, and since Manitoba is committed to sustainable development which requires stewardship of our natural assets so that we can pass them on undiminished to future generations, there is a definite need for renewed legislation to enable provincial departments to implement the principles and guidelines of sustainable development, as envisaged in the Sustainable Development Act, 1997. After reviewing both Workbooks, we are concerned that the revised Acts may continue to focus on exploitation rather than stewardship of wildlife in all of its forms, both terrestrial and aquatic. CPAWS Manitoba looks forward to participating in the reviews of these Acts and to continue to pressure government to fulfill its obligations under the many commitments to protection and sustainable use of our natural assets.

Yours truly,
Alice Chambers, Vice-President
Manitoba Chapter, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: WORKBOOK ON FISH

General Comments:

We have reviewed the Workbook on Fish and have a number of concerns with the focus and contents of the policies, and the proposals for increased utilization of a "resource" which has already been impacted by a lack of provincial and federal stewardship. We wonder why the focus is so specifically on fish, even with the reference to other aquatic species on page 11. It would have been far more logical to have a holistic approach in the Workbook with the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems as the focus. For example, aquatic plants are a necessary segment of aquatic ecosystems, but are totally neglected in this Workbook. added to ensure that views are representative of the Manitoba public.

There area number of laudable statements on page 2 such as addressing the need to sustain life by protecting the earth's life support system, and protecting and preserving plant, animal and fish stocks and habitat. The term "enhancing our natural resources" creates concern in that this is generally understood to mean manipulating streams, stocking lakes, etc., practices which may have long term negative impacts on native species, native genetic diversity and habitats. None of these statements refer to the fact that wildlife and habitats are finite, that we know and understand very little about the interconnectedness and interdependencies of species, and that in many cases, particularly as related to aquatics, we do not have definitive baseline information about what species are present, let alone the impacts of various natural and human caused impacts on their populations and health. A great deal of humility is needed in any approach to "management" of species and habitat, and this humility and the need for a precautionary approach to human "management" and use of fish and other aquatic species are missing from this document. As well, a focus on the inherent right of other species to exist, the bequest values, apart from protecting species or the "resource" for future use, are lacking. It will be impossible to feed, cloth and shelter an ever increasing world population, especially if countries like Canada continue to consume at the present rate. The issue of consumption is not mentioned in the list of requirements to solve problems, most of which CPAWS Manitoba can agree with.

Given the paucity of baseline information, how was the figure arrived at on page 6 of a "total potential sustainable yield of fish from Manitoba waters is 36 million kilograms"? Such a figure is meaningless in any case, as it does not indicate what species are involved, whether they are desirable as far as the market is concerned, whether there are actual fishers to catch this amount of fish, or how this yield of fish would impact the overall health of our aquatic ecosystems. Fish, particularly if one includes invertebrates, aquatic plants, and benthic communities, are not only indicators of environmental health, they are also indicators of environmental degradation.

POLICY AREA 1: ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION

CPAWS Manitoba suggests the title be changed to Environmental Protection, given the potential negative impacts of "enhancement." Protection does not normally include management, restoration, or development. One normally thinks of protection as referring to non-use, non-management, without a need for restoration or development. The other terms are more appropriate as objectives for managed ecosystems. The Round Table must consider protected non-use or very limited use areas where natural selection and natural processes are allowed to continue unhindered by human impacts as an important part of sustainable development. Sustainable development normally includes protected areas, thus protected aquatic ecosystems are just as important as protected terrestrial ecosystems as scientific benchmarks and genetic pools for assessing our impacts on managed systems.

Suggested Objectives

The first Objective also is missing any reference to cultural and human health benefits. CPAWS Manitoba agrees with the second Objective.

The human use focus is continued in the comments under Policy Area 1, , i.e., productivity, resource, use, etc. What exactly is meant by the "productivity" of the habitat? Does it simply mean that we should continue to be able to harvest fish, even though the species composition and distribution may not be close to natural? Manitobans have already been responsible for the depletion of commercial aquatic species in all of our major lakes through overfishing and habitat degradation and loss and yet there is no indication in this single policy directed at protection that the Round Table is recommending a moratorium or closed stretches of lakes, rivers streams or other methods that would minimize stresses on these ecosystems and perhaps allow them to return to a natural state.

Suggested Policies

Not one policy mentions the need for large protected areas for aquatic ecosystems or watershed planning.

Policy 1.1

Again, protection and enhancement should not be tied together. Any enhancement projects must be done with care and with full knowledge of the long-term ecological impacts. There may be areas where it is appropriate to try to reclaim degraded areas through enhancement projects or to initiate enhancement projects on isolated water bodies that will not have outside impacts, but the policies should focus on prevention of degradation of fish habitat as the first priority. Although significant and critical habitats for species-at-risk need to be protected, protection must occur long before species become at risk. Prevention is more effective and less costly than trying to rehabilitate habitat or reintroduce species. Who will determine the "balance" and on what basis is unclear. More than guidelines are needed, since they are non-enforceable and non-enforced. Regulations and a capacity and ability to monitor and regulate are required.

Applications:

The Applications on pages 14, 15 are often vague. The principle of "no net loss of habitat and no net loss of species" should be adopted.

1.1a - We disagree with Application 1.1a a. that prevention or mitigation would be required only "if necessary." As stewards of these ecosystems, government must ensure that proponents are required to ensure that prevention is the first objective, with mitigation only after all alternatives for prevention have been investigated. This application does not fit with the no net loss application. The substitution of "like for like" habitat is not possible and still results in a loss of habitat. Increasing the "productivity" of existing habitat is too vague and could mean simply stocking an area with a non-natural species. Where a project is so important to the economy of the province that significant ecological impacts are acceptable in the eyes of the decision makers, then a bond should be posted to pay for attempts at mitigation, monitoring, rehabilitation. Monies should also be provided for purchase of threatened habitat and rehabilitation of degraded habitats where positive impacts are possible.

1.1b - The idea proposed in 1.1b may be feasible, but how could a realistic assessment be made for long term habitat loss or degradation, impacts on species, bequest impacts, as well as the social and cultural impacts? One of the problems is trying to put a price on nature and its free services. To repeat, prevention must be the first priority.

1.1c - Agreed.

1.1d - More than just designation is needed. A management plan, such as that developed for the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River, must be implemented if the spirit and intent of the designation is to be meaningful and if the qualities for which the designation was made are to be maintained. The province could begin by ensuring that the Bloodvein River has the 2km protection on either side that was part of the management plan, and that land uses outside of the designation do not impact negatively on the heritage rivers.

1.1e - Wording should be stronger than "promote and encourage," although these means are part of the mix needed for change.

1.1f - Regulations are required, guidelines are non-enforceable and have not worked well in the past.

1.1g - Agreed, but with regulations and enforcement.

1.1h - Agreed, but traditional and local knowledge should be added.

1.1i - Agreed. Another application is required to ensure that all departments within MNR work together to ensure an integrated approach to the protection and "management" of aquatic ecosystems. Water and aquatic species cannot be managed separately from impacts by land management practices in surrounding areas. As well, a commitment from the province is needed to ensure that the human and fiscal resources are available to collect the necessary baseline information and carry out the research required to have a scientifically based rationale for decisions taken with regard to aquatic ecosystems. The political will for monitoring and enforcement must also be present. The large area planning recommended by the COSDI process should be implemented as soon as possible.

Policy 1.2

This should be adjusted to reflect the need to protect instream flow needs for aquatic species as the highest priority in the allocation of water.

Applications:

1.2a,b,cd - Agreed.

1.2e - Should read "... water quality and quantity."

1.2f,g - Agreed.

Policy 1.3

The word "shall" is too strong in this instance as it is not always possible to rehabilitate or restore habitat and in some cases, the activities used to restore or rehabilitate may cause even more damage. Establishment of "new habitat" is not a surrogate for natural habitat and natural species composition and populations.

Applications:

1.3a - To "enhance" existing habitats is of concern. We know too little about these systems and how they work to imagine that we have the ability to enhance natural ecosystems and the outcome may be disadvantageous for some or even a large number of species. Where, how, and for what purposes would "new" habitats be developed? Is it not more cost effective and in line with sustainable development to ensure the ecological integrity, ecosystem resilience of natural habitats and ecosystems, rather than try to build some artificial system?

1.3b,c,d,e - We agree with the need for public education and awareness regarding habitat protection and the need for partnerships, but we are still bothered by the "enhancement" focus, given limited information. This concern is carried through 1.3d, 1.3e.

1.3f,g - Agreed.

Policy 1.4

It is not just the structures that need to be assessed, it is the ecosystem itself. Given the lack of knowledge it is necessary to err on the side of precaution and assume the presence of fish, other aquatic species and the need for their passage. Intermittent streams are often not intermittent when a study is undertaken and the cumulative negative impacts of ignoring small streams in assessing crossings, dams and weirs can be significant across a watershed. Again, no net loss of aquatic species. The province needs much stronger review processes, monitoring and enforcement related to stream crossings. There are too may culverts and bridges that constrict flows, are of the wrong size, are perched, blocked, or cause sedimentation. Roads, particulary the hundreds of kilometres of forestry roads, need much more thorough planning and review. Engineering drawings should be required for bridges; crude hand drawings are not sufficient. There should be public review of these access roads, which presently does not always occur. The cumulative impacts of these access networks and stream crossings are ignored and the information gathered before construction is minimal. The province itself should set an example and ensure that federal navigable waters permits are obtained for all provincial navigable water stream crossings. A definition for "temporary" crossings is also required.

Applications:

1.4a - What is the definition of "significance"? The cumulative impacts of ignoring a number of "insignificant" rivers or streams can be just as negative as the impacts of a structure on a large river.

1.4b,c,d - Agreed, but equally important is the monitoring of stream crossings and road building, and the application of the Manitoba stream crossing guidelines. It is likely that regulations rather than guidelines are required. Since roads are responsible for considerable siltation and disruption of water flows, roads should definitely be included in this policy.

Policy 1.5

What does "wise use" of riparian areas mean? Unless Manitoba is prepared to find the funding for the research required to determine what "use," if any, should be made of riparian areas, then existing riparian areas should be protected and degraded riparian areas rehabilitated wherever possible. A much stronger educational program is needed, not just for agricultural activities near water but for all "development" activities along waterbodies, including housing, golf courses, and forestry activities, to ensure that there is an understanding of the ecological importance of riparian zones for both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Enforceable regulations are needed, with an ability and political will to enforce them. Too much development has been allowed along watercourses, some of it in violation of the provincial water policies. Riparian areas "managed" themselves for many years without our help.

Applications:

1.5a - Riparian areas are ecologically important in themselves and require protection for the wildlife, water quality protection, protection from sedimentation, shelter, temperature modification, production of leaf litter and downed woody material, services they provide.

1.5b - One cannot use, protect, and develop the same piece of riparian area. The province should take measures to protect riparian areas wherever possible on either public or private lands. Some fiscal incentives may be required to ensure protection on private land, but enforced regulations to prevent cattle from watering in streams and degrading riparian areas would be a beginning. Much stronger protection of riparian zones from logging is also required, as well as better monitoring and implementation of protective measures.

1.5c,d,e,f - Agreed.

Policy 1.6

Why is the no net loss restricted only to productive capacity? In the interests of protection of biodiversity, to which this province has publicly committed, the policy should also include no net loss of native aquatic species, apart from the long term natural evolution of species. CPAWS Manitoba agrees with the need to protect and attempt to maintain sturgeon populations. A beginning would be to follow the 1994 advice of the provincial Endangered Species Advisory Committee and designate lake sturgeon as a "threatened" species in Manitoba.

Applications:

1.6a,b - Agreed.

1.6c - Should read "forbid" the harvest of sturgeon, not "control."

1.6d - Do we have the knowledge of the variations in genetic makeup of sturgeon populations across the province to do this? Do we have sturgeon hatcheries across the province which could be used as a source of local sturgeon populations for reintroduction?

1.6e,f - Agreed.

Policy 1.7

This would be more convincing if it included a commitment to discontinue the stocking of non-natural species into lakes and rivers across the province, which is primarily carried out to maintain or increase the recreational fisheries. Little information is available to assess the impacts of these stockings on the natural species and their populations. We are pleased that the province has recently banned the import of live bait and leeches, but disappointed that it took so long to do it, when the risks were obvious. The provincial bait fish harvesting needs much closer monitoring.

Applications:

1.7a - What would be the conditions for "unless otherwise approved"? Under what conditions would it be acceptable to introduce exotic species into an ecosystem? We are concerned about transfers of leeches and bait fish from one ecoregion to another within the province. Why is the use of live bait not banned entirely?

1.7b - CPAWS Manitoba does not believe the province has gathered enough basic information to enable either the province itself or a committee to make responsible decisions or risk assessments regarding the transfer or introduction of aquatic organisms. The suggestions within this application are very risky. Many of the stakeholders would not have the scientific background necessary to advise the government and stakeholders who might obtain private gain, such as the bait fishermen or commercial fishermen, are more than likely to advise the government to act on their economic behalf rather than to make decisions based on protection of ecological integrity, protection and maintenance of natural biodiversity, or for the benefit of future generations. In the case of lack of information, the logical process would be the use of the precautionary principle and the commitment to non-transfer, non-importation and the protection of native biodiversity.

1.7c,d - Agreed.

1.7e - Develop legislation as well as the capacity to monitor and enforce. Without the capacity to monitor and enforce, guidelines, practices and legislation are meaningless.

1.7f - Where would it not be appropriate to oppose inter-basin transfer of aquatic organisms? CPAWS Manitoba would like the provincial government to continue to strongly oppose all activities both inside and outside of the province that have the potential to introduce non-native aquatic organisms.

1.7g, h - Agree strongly.

POLICY AREA 2: ALLOCATION AND SUPPLY

Suggested Objectives

The Objective has a laudable goal, however, there is an assumption that we have enough knowledge to "manage" and allocate on a sustainable basis. The suggested policies are all aimed only at fish, all other aquatic species are ignored. Obviously Manitoba has not managed and allocated on a sustainable basis as yet, given the declines of a number of species and the declines in commercial harvests on our major lakes, as well as the unsustainability of some of the recreational harvesting. Commercial fishing in Manitoba is following the path of the Atlantic cod. We need to rethink the whole management and allocation system, tenure, net sizes, closures, seasons, waste, etc. The province must take a precautionary approach to allocation, if it is serious about maintaining species, option and bequest values. Sustainable development does not mean simply moving the targets to what are presently "underutilized" species and simply moving down the chain until there is nothing left. We do not believe that Manitoba has the baseline information to know what the "safe biologically sustainable limits" are. If we have that knowledge, what excuse is there for the present status of our fisheries? We believe that the government has been reluctant to put limits on commercial fishers because of potential economic impacts. Delaying controls only makes the message that much more difficult when difficult decisions are finally taken, as with the Atlantic cod and Pacific salmon. We urge the Round Table to recommend to the government that steps be taken immediately to cut back on the commercial fisheries and in some cases the recreational fisheries, to ensure that there is no wastage of unwanted species, to ensure that all involved realize the need for cutbacks and to pressure the federal government to take its responsibilities for fresh water fisheries more seriously and to put federal dollars into freshwater fisheries and aquatic ecosystem research, so that decisions can be taken with a measure of confidence based on sound science. Local and traditional knowledge should also be included.

The costs of unsustainable fish management are more than just "decreased economic activity and increased social costs." The costs are borne by the diminished/impoverished freshwater ecosystems, which in turn affect other species that depend on aquatic species for food. Their ability to recover is not known, especially when the overfishing has occurred in our cold oligotrophic northern waters. Once the species compositions have been changed, with changes in the species populations and balances, it may be a very long time before recovery is attained. Manitoba has strong commitments towards sustaining our biological diversity which must be considered in decisions. As stewards of large areas of freshwater, we have a national and global responsibility to sustain wild populations and to pass on, undiminished, these freshwater ecosystems to future generations. We are not headed in the right direction to do this. We are definitely not living off the "interest", we are depleting the capital!

Suggested Policies:

Policy 2.1

We agree with the Policy statement. Given the present situation, the balance must be tipped in favour of conservation, not development. As well, using the most accurate and up-to-date information in Manitoba often means using information gathered in the 1970s. This information is not necessarily valid in 2000 and thus a precautionary approach to allocation is absolutely essential.

Applications:

First, regulations should protect known and potential spawning areas. Next, monitoring and enforcement are crucial. Regulations without people to monitor and enforce are useless. Offenders soon realize that there is no one watching them. We agree with the statements in 2.1a but the province must allocate the fiscal resources and back these up with the political will to ensure that monitoring and enforcement occur. There must also be regulations (perhaps there already are) on how often nets must be monitored and emptied. If undesirable species are netted, there must be options in place for the use of these as animal feed or fertilizer, if they cannot be sold as food.

2.1a d. - Should read "establish and implement." Even where harvest has been deemed to be unsustainable, measures have not been taken to reduce the catch, e.g. Eakins and McMurray Lakes in Atikaki Wilderness Provincial Park.

2.1c - Our understanding is that much of the "stock" monitoring at present is through looking at yearly catches. This is not sufficient, as it may be an indication of presence/absence of commercial species, but it is not indicative of the overall state of the ecosystem. Problems with the status of the whole interconnected web may not show up immediately at the top of the chain. MNR must have the capacity to monitor and assess the whole systems, not just collect catch and effort data. In view of the declining fisheries, a precautionary approach is absolutely necessary in determining yearly allowable catches. We agree with 2.1c d.

2.1d,e,f - Agreed, but 2.1f should be expanded to include overall ecosystem monitoring for specific waters, realizing that this would be impossible to do in a general way. We must begin to try to understand these ecosystems and how they function as a whole, not just look at isolated species.

Policy 2.2

We agree with the intent of this policy, however, it may not always be possible to "meet" Aboriginal needs in the allocation of fish resources. If the fish are simply not there, it is impossible to meet the needs. There must be much more research into the subsistence catches and the economic value of these to the Aboriginal communities. The substitution of store bought food for native foods is not always in the best interests of health. It is imperative to know the economic, social and human health values of local foods so that a priority can be set on ensuring that activities that negatively impact on these resources are avoided. Increased access, as recommended in this document, will be detrimental to local use of these resources.

2.2a,b,c - Agreed. As well, MNR should look at local co-management agreements and train local people to monitor catch levels and harvesting techniques. Also, there needs to be mutual learning about the status of various species, the need for conservation and sustainable use, as could be possible under 2.2e.

2.2d - Again, we express our concern regarding the term "habitat enhancement." Objectives and possible methods are not outlined so other than express overall concerns, we cannot comment on this proposal.

2.2f - Agreed as long as the harvest of alternate species is monitored and deemed to be sustainable.

2.2g - Agreed.

2.2h - CPAWS Manitoba has great concerns about fish stocking as there is no monitoring of how this impacts on the natural populations within these lakes. It may be that for certain isolated lakes, one could write-off natural biodiversity and simply "farm" the waters for a certain length of time. This, like monospecies agriculture, has not been demonstrated to be sustainable over time. If a sustainable level of harvest is to be ensured over time, stocking is not the way to go.

2.2i - This Application contradicts the intent of Policy 1.6, , i.e., to conserve and protect sturgeon populations. How many Aboriginal communities can demonstrate that they still have "unique cultural, traditional and religious practices" that are sufficiently important to their culture to warrant the use of sturgeon? It would be to the benefit of the sturgeon to have MNR, perhaps with the assistance of academic and other interested parties, discuss the diminished sturgeon populations and the need for conservation. It may be that those communities who have a desire to harvest sturgeon for traditional uses may be persuaded that, in the interests of future generations, they should forego these traditions until sturgeon population numbers warrant.

2.2j,k - Agreed. It is also necessary to recognize the increasing stresses that may be placed on local aquatic populations by the rapid population growth in many Aboriginal communities. We cannot ignore the fact that in many communities the bulk of the population is under 15.

Policy 2.3

We can agree with the intent of this Policy and its Applications, however, there is concern over the phrase "providing the sustainability of the resource is assured" and the lack of ecosystem information to make such decisions. We do not believe that allocation decisions in the past have protected the sustainability of the "resource" or the aquatic ecosystems. What will change as a result of this policy? Will the province continue to allocate, ignore present status and signs of stress, and continue to allow overfishing?

Policy 2.4

We agree with the intent of this Policy, however it may not be possible to ensure both the biological and economic sustainability of fish stocks. If biological sustainability is not the priority, the economic sustainability will fail.

Applications:

2.4a - Will the province fund the fiscal and human resources needed to determine the "scientifically determined sustainable allowable commercial net harvest limits"? Given past and predicted MNR cutbacks, this seems highly unlikely. It would require an enormous investment to gather the information required to actually implement this Application. We encourage the province to make this investment in the interests of sustainability. Perhaps a surcharge on commercial and recreational licences could offset expenses to a degree. The federal government must be persuaded to discharge its constitutional obligations towards freshwater fisheries and its goals of no net loss and integration of resource management.

2.4b - Agree strongly.

2.4c - There is not enough information about the composition and mandate of this panel to comment.

If it were to be "independent," why would consultation be only as "deemed appropriate by the minister"?

2.4d - Similar to the above, no mandate or composition of the advisory committee is given. If this is implemented, the composition must be much broader than just the local commercial interests, since fisheries are a public resource and a public legacy.

2.4e,f - Agreed. Mechanisms should also include total closure in some instances; closures of stretches of a river could be rotated on a yearly or other basis. Closures may be easier to monitor and enforce than limits.

2.4g - This may be or may not be appropriate, depending of the level of understanding of the available information and the composition of the partnership. Meaningful consultation and input are always necessary, but management and allocation decisions must be made on best available information, not on fishers' desires to continue making a profit or continue overharvesting.

Policy 2.5

We do not agree with this if the access and tenure systems lead to continued overfishing. There needs to be a public review of the tenure and access rights to ensure that innovation and change can occur. Continuing in the same fashion as has occurred in the past obviously will not work for the best interests and sustainability of aquatic ecosystems. We understand the need for some assurances regarding access but not "shall be protected" and not at the expense of the sustainability of the aquatic ecosystems.

Applications:

2.5a - The over-riding principle in the Application of this policy must be the sustainability of the aquatic ecosystems. This is completely missing from the Application. The Round Table should not recommend the continuation of practices that obviously have not worked. The Application is focussed solely on the need to allocate, rather on the need to ensure that there are sustainable aquatic ecosystems or a sustainable fisheries, whether commercial, subsistence or recreational.

2.5b - These regulations may be necessary but the same over-riding principle needs to be addressed in this Application as well.

2.5c - There is not enough information provided to comment on this Application.

Policy 2.6

We can agree if this Policy includes the need to reduce pressures on the fisheries by reducing the numbers of commercial net fishers to a sustainable level. If it means continuing business as usual to ensure sustainable economic returns without care for the sustainability of the aquatic ecosystems, then we cannot agree. Industry "efficiency" must be balanced by equitable distribution of the benefits of using the resource as per the Biodiversity Convention and the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy and the need to ensure the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems. An "efficient" consolidation of the net fisheries may not be in the best interests of local peoples and communities. Net benefits to Manitobans appear to be based only on present and near future economic benefits. This does not represent all of the sustainability factors, environmental, cultural, social, human health and economic, and thus does not represent sustainable development.

Applications:

2.6a - CPAWS Manitoba agrees with the goal of generating local benefits, but all proposals must be within the carrying capacity of the aquatic ecosystems, must not produce habitat or ecological degradation, must not impact natural species composition or populations, and must not result in the introduction of non-native species. Given the many negative aspects of fish farming and intensive aquaculture, does the province have the capacity to assess, monitor and regulate such activities?

2.6b,c,d - Agreed.

2.6 e - Agreed.

2.6f,g - Agreed, but how consistent is present enforcement?

2.6h - The "special programs" are not described. We can agree if special programs means that advice and expertise, and perhaps startup loans will be offered to assist northern communities to become involved in a sustainable net fishery, and if the province has the capacity to monitor these fisheries. We agree with the need to promote sustainable economic activities in northern communities.

Policy 2.7

The intent of this Policy is unclear. If it is meant to encourage community stability and is not meant to be detrimental to the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems, CPAWS Manitoba can support it. However, that is not how it is written. The way it is written, there is no reference to sustainability, only a need to provide an economic benefit, even if that benefit is short-term. It is not effective to promote the investment in a commercial net fishing community operation, where the operation is not ecologically sustainable or economically viable. This is a very short-term policy and we cannot support it as written. The Application does include reference to "within established sustainable harvest levels," however, it is doubtful that the province has adequate information on which to base such a harvest for northern waters.

Policy 2.8

We can agree with the policy.

Applications

2.8a - Agreed.

2.8b - CPAWS Manitoba does not agree with the proposal that all Crown water bodies be available for recreational fishing. There must be protected benchmark water bodies, areas where natural processes are allowed to continue, without human interference, for comparison, for scientific research purposes, for maintenance of biodiversity, and for maintenance of genetic pools. Once an area is opened up for fishing, the opportunity for overfishing becomes very real. Public education and awareness programs would be required to explain the need for protection.

2.8c - Agreed.

2.8d - Monitoring programs are needed to assess the effectiveness of such programs, particularly the catch and release program. What is the survival rate of fish that have been handled? Catch and release only helps maintain fish populations if done correctly.

2.8e - Agreed. Since all Manitobans are stewards of these "resources," public consultation should include non-users as well as users.

2.8f - CPAWS Manitoba recommends the banning of the use live bait as soon as possible.

2.8g - We cannot comment on this Application as not enough information is given.

2.8h - Not enough information is given to comment on this.

2.8i - Enough information has already been gathered on the negative impacts of lead weights. The province should have banned their use years ago. CPAWS Manitoba recommends the banning of lead weights as soon as possible.

Policy 2.9

We disagree with this Policy as written. There may be some instances when stocking with native species is appropriate, but this Policy is written purely from a short-term economic gain perspective, not a sustainable ecosystems perspective. It is completely focussed on increasing the "supply" of desirable species for fishing, without consideration of ecological impacts. This is not acceptable.

Applications:

2.9a - No reference is made to impacts on ecological integrity of aquatic ecosystems, sustainability, or biodiversity. The focus is purely on "stocks" and economics. An evaluation of the impacts on native biodiversity and sustainability of aquatic ecosystems from stocking activities should be undertaken. With the lack of baseline information, this may be somewhat difficult.

2.9b - Rather, review and revise fish stocking guidelines to ensure that the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems, native aquatic biodiversity are not being negatively impacted by stocking activities.

2.9c - Disagree. What is meant by experimental? It implies exotic species. Also, what is meant by significant benefits?

2.9d - Agree with the need for training for fish hatchery operators. We object to the idea of private stocking of Crown waters. The focus is only on fish "stocks," not on the ecosystems as a whole.

2.9e - Again, focus is only on economics and stocks, rather than on ecosystems.

2.9f - CPAWS Manitoba is concerned about this Application and what it means about present practices. We did not know that commercial enterprises were involved in spawn taking. There must be clear and enforceable regulations regarding such activities, along with a capacity to monitor and enforce. There seem to be a multitude of opportunities for providing personal gain, without the presence of basic information, research, monitoring or enforcement capacities. Protection for long-term sustainability of aquatic ecosystems seems almost to be absent.

POLICY AREA 3: DEVELOPMENT AND USE

Suggested Objectives

Objective 1: Once again, high sounding words that collectively are vague enough to be meaningless.

Objective 2: We agree with most of the comments made under this section. However, there is no recognition that fish and all aquatic species are part of the ecosystem, that they have inherent value, apart from development and economic benefits, and that they are part of the web of life and provide food for other wildlife, as well as for humans. "Maximizing fishing developments" is not related to the need to maintain sustainability of aquatic ecosystems.

Suggested Policies

Policy 3.1

This is repetitive promotion of the net fishery has already been addressed under Policy Area 2. Since fish populations in many areas across the province are already stressed, why are further development and use opportunities being promoted? We also object to the idea that once major commercial species are depleted, we should encourage the use of "underutilized" species and continue to work down the chain until there is essentially nothing left to fish! What happened to the idea of sustainable development and leaving opportunities and options for future generations?

Applications:

3.1a - Will there be sufficient fish to fill new market niches and market expansions? It is not sound business practise to build a market for a non-sustainable product.

3.1b - How does this fit in with the need for food inspection, health concerns?

3.1c - Not enough information to comment.

3.1d - There may be some positive economic results from this, providing there is enough information about the "underutilized" species to understand how the ecosystems would be impacted and to set sustainable limits.

3.1e - This completely ignores the ecological, cultural, human health, and social impacts. The almost complete focus on economics is unwarranted and undesirable.

3.1f - Agreed.

Policy 3.2

Once again, there is only an economic focus. We agree with the need to capitalize on tourism opportunities, but, once again, they must be ecologically sustainable or they will be short-term. Tourism development must also not impact on traditional use of the land and traditional food gathering. At present, many of the lodges are American owned. We would prefer to have the economic benefits accrue to the local communities. It is probably impossible to limit American ownership, but it could be possible to tie licencing/permitting to a commitment to local employment. As well, promotion is pointless if fishing success is limited. We should not promote what we do not have, and must not promote overfishing simply for short-term gain. Given the negative impacts of roads and increased access on fish habitat and fish, it is surprising for a fish document to be promoting increased roads and access! Is the goal to have access to every lake in the province and to fish them until there is nothing left? Again, there is no reference to sustainability, only to economic opportunities.

Applications:

3.2a,b,c - We can support these only if the promotion is within the ecological carrying capacity of the affected waterbodies, and if the province has the baseline information and the monitoring capacity to ensure that overfishing does not occur. We do not believe that either the information or the capacity exists at the moment.

3.2d - Aggressive marketing in partnership with industry is not acceptable when there is so much uncertainty about the status of the fisheries.

3.2e,f,g,h - Exploit, exploit, exploit! Will all of these tourism operators be willing to set aside some of their profits towards the baseline information and research that is needed to ascertain whether what is being promoted is ecologically, socially and culturally sustainable?

3.2i - Agreed.

3.2j - This may work in favour of large American interests and against local community efforts. Care will be needed in assisting local communities to ensure viable operations. Eco-tourism or cultural tourism may not require the same standard of consumptive lifestyles as traditional lodges have promoted.

3.2k - Only if within the carrying capacity of the fisheries.

3.2l - Does this mean more or less road access? Remote wilderness fishing lodges will suffer from increased access, with the resulting pressures on a finite resource base. Many tourists in southern areas will not understand the ecological impacts of roads and access. Roadless areas must be protected in order to ensure that habitat for large mammals is maintained. There appears to be no tie-in to the needs of the rest of the wildlife.

3.2m - Agreed. Should read recognize and protect opportunities for remote and isolated wilderness tourism experiences. As populations expand and wilderness disappears across the world, our wilderness and wildlife will become that much more precious.

3.2n - There is already considerable wilderness tourism development within protected areas, even within Atikaki Wilderness Park. There is no apparent concept of the idea of protected areas as areas for wildlife to flourish and evolve, without human disturbance and manipulation.

Policy 3.3

Given the status of much of our fishery, perhaps a decline in recreational fishing is a bonus, except for a decrease in provincial revenues! An aging population may not respond to marketing measures. There is also considerable repetition of Policy 3.2. and Policy 2.8

3.3a - Agreed.

3.3b,c - Within the ecological limits of sustainability of aquatic ecosystems

3.3d - Not enough information to comment.

3.3e - Perhaps.

Policy 3.4

Is there any method of exploitation the Round Table is not prepared to recommend? We do not agree with the focus, nor do we agree with increased aquaculture without environmental review processes in place. Aquaculture should be added to the Classes of Development Regulation. Pay to fish on private lands may be a possible economic alternative, but only if the waters are isolated and there is no opportunity for stocked species or disease to escape into Crown waters. We agree with the need for economic opportunities for northern communities, but only if the sustainability of the aquatic ecosystems are not threatened by such developments.

Applications:

3.4a - Disagree as written. Only information about exploitation is to be shared; there is nothing about the need for conservation or protection of biodiversity.

3.4b - Not enough information to comment.

Policy 3.5

Again a focus on exploitation. Rather, a regulatory system that recognizes the limits of exploitation and ensures that a diversified, integrated sustainable economy can only be developed if exploitation is within the ecological carrying capacity of aquatic ecosystems. A regulatory system that recognizes that in the absence of information, the precautionary approach to allocation and use is a requirement. What constraints are presently in place that the Round Table wishes to see removed? In view of the focus on exploitation throughout this Workbook, it is unlikely that CPAWS Manitoba could agree with what is being proposed. We are not aware of regulatory duplication that needs to be removed. We are very aware of a lack of capacity as far as fiscal and human resources for gathering baseline information, research, monitoring and enforcement of guidelines and legislation that would protect fish and fish habitat.

Applications:

3.5a - A listing of what the Round Table has identified as complexity, regulatory overlap, excessive red tape would have been useful. As written, we disagree.

3.5b - We agree with the use of plain language.

3.5c - CPAWS Manitoba strongly disagrees with the Round Table recommendation to pursue the transfer of administrative authority for fish habitat management to the province. The province of Manitoba has done nothing to indicate that it is prepared to fund the personnel to monitor and enforce federal legislation, nor have past practices shown the province to have the political will to enforce provincial guidelines with respect to protection of fish and fish habitat. Further cutbacks in MNR are anticipated, on top of previous cuts and Friday office closures. Meanwhile, activities that can impact fish and fish habitat continue to expand across the province.

3.5d - Studies have not found duplication. Rather, the finding has been a lack of capacity at all levels of government. What is needed is much greater cooperation between all levels of government and within governments to ensure the maximum effectiveness of the combined present capacities.

Policy 3.6

We agree with this, but cultural and human health values need to be included. The costs go far beyond what is listed as funds are required for baseline information, population monitoring, research.

Applications:

3.6a - Agreed, but, as above, cultural and human health values need to be added.

3.6b,c - Agreed.

Policy 3.7

The development must be more than economically sustainable, it must be ecologically sustainable. We agree with the need for economic development in remote communities and, in some cases, subsidies may be necessary, but development outside of the ecological limits of the aquatic ecosystems must not be encouraged nor subsidized.

Applications:

3.7a - Agreed.

3.7b - Not enough information about the subsidies to comment.

3.7c - On the surface, this sounds okay, but the charges paid by the remote fishing lodges to have access to these public resources are minimal and many of the lodges are American owned, meaning it would be a further subsidy to non-Canadians. It would be preferable to have local hiring clauses written into the use permits.

Policy 3.8

We have a strong concern about this Policy as the negative impacts of increased infrastructure have not even been mentioned, let alone addressed. For many areas, there is already more than sufficient infrastructure and fishers seem pretty determined to find fishing areas and means of access to these areas. For more remote areas, most of the cold oligotrophic waters cannot sustain a great deal of fishing pressure. There is also the lack of capacity to monitor and enforce legislation for areas that are presently full of infrastructure. Where would the resources come from to monitor even more areas?

Applications:

The Applications ignore the need for land use planning, including the fulfillment of the commitments to protected areas, before more infrastructure is planned or built.

3.8a - Only if there is a demonstrated need for boat launches and docks.

3.8b - There are not always benefits to road construction. Culture and human health are omitted. New roads should be considered only if they fit into the integrated land use plan for the area.

3.8c,d - Agreed.

Policy 3.9

Agreed.

Policy 3.10

Agreed. Are regulations prohibiting the wastage of fish really enforced? Periodically there are news reports describing wastage.

POLICY AREA 4: PLANNING AND INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT

Suggested Objectives

Objective 2: Cultural needs are omitted

Objective 5: We disagree with the goal of "enhancing" biological diversity. This implies introduced species, genetic manipulation, etc. The objective must be to protect and maintain native biological diversity.

There is nothing to indicate the source of the definition of ecosystem based management contained in the side bar. The Round Table should review other definitions and descriptions, including the second paragraph of the Project Description Document for Manitoba's Ecosystems Based Management Pilot Project, July 1997. "An ecosystem approach recognizes that people are part of the same interactive system - it acknowledges the importance of human needs and our dependence on functioning terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems to meet them."

Throughout this Policy Area, the term aquatic resources should be substituted for fish.

Suggested Policies

Policy 4.1

Agreed.

Applications

Agreed, but there needs to be a public and private sector awareness and education component. Public involvement and consultation in such processes is required.

Policy 4.2

Needs to include water quality and quantity. Should use the term aquatic resources throughout, rather than fish resources.

Applications:

4.2a - Should be revised to reflect the COSDI recommendations on the need for large area planning.

4.2b,c - Any legislation or guidelines must be enforceable and enforced.

4.2d,e - Agreed.

Policy 4.3

Again, should read aquatic sustainability plans. Fish do not exist in isolation from the many other aquatic species. In the list of factors, "cultural" is omitted again. As well, fish resource plans implies plans to simply increase the weight of fish produced for our use rather than looking at maintenance of biodiversity and aquatic integrity. Planning should be by watershed or basin or some other geographically based boundaries. Although there may be priorities, the overall goal must be the protection and maintenance of aquatic biodiversity. The use of the Index of Biological Integrity may be of more value than having a set of indicator species.

Applications:

4.3a - Are acceptable methodologies not available now? Again, "cultural" is omitted from 4.3a a. We agree with the need for large area planning that takes all of the sustainability factors into account and which includes meaningful public consultation. However, the basis must be the protection of the ecological integrity of the ecosystems. Degraded ecosystems will not support economic development over time.

4.3b - Agreed although cultural and human health are missing from the list.

4.3c - How does the Round Table envisage simplifying resource maintenance and protection functions? Too vague for comment.

Policy 4.4

Agreed, but substitute the term aquatic resource for fish resource. Also, there is no reason to exempt the public interest from any fish issues or conflicts.

Applications:

Agreed.

Policy 4.5

Agree strongly. Again, should use term aquatic resources throughout.

Policy 4.6

Agree strongly. Again, should use term aquatic resources.

Policy 4.7

The balance must be weighted towards habitat protection. Without protecting the sustainability of the aquatic ecosystems, economic development will falter. The Saskatchewan model of having the other sustainability factors nestled inside the ecological needs should be adopted in Manitoba. We note again the reference to the duplication issue.

Applications:

4.7a - How does this application fit with integrated management? This is development once again. What is meant here? There do not seem to be many obstacles to economic development at present.

4.7b - 4.7b a., b., and c. are a duplication of 4.3c a., b., and c.

4.7c - The term "appropriate" consultation should be described.

4.7d - CPAWS Manitoba encourages the government to provide the fiscal and human resources to monitor and enforce legislation across the province. The description "fairly and reasonably" is too vague.

4.7e - CPAWS Manitoba strongly disagrees with this statement, as already described in 3.5c and 3.5d.

POLICY AREA 5: PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Suggested Objective

Substitute the term aquatic species, including fish. You cannot refer to ecosystem based management but address only fish. Again, "culture" was omitted in the list. We agree in general with the statements.

Suggested Policies

Policy 5.1

Again, cultural and human heath are omitted in the list otherwise we agree with the Policy. Not all government programs and activities have been successes. A public relations campaign will just increase the degree of cynicism. An honest portrayal of the situation is required

Applications:

5.1a - Educational materials must be honest descriptions of past and present practices, successes and failures, issues, with challenges to students to discuss options and solutions. Education and awareness as well as developing critical thinking skills should be the objective.

5.1b,c,d - Agreed.

5.1e - Communications must be free from bias, plain language.

Remainder - Agreed. There is a concern regarding the need for resources to implement Policy Area 5.

Policy 5.2

Agreed, but should include human health and culture in the list.

Policy 5.3

Agree, particularly with 5.3c.

POLICY AREA 6: HUMAN AND PROPERTY HEALTH AND SAFETY

Suggested Objective

Agreed. There is very little general knowledge of the issue of mercury in fish and most Manitobans will be unaware that there are restrictions on the use of certain fish species over a designated size, particularly for pregnant women.

Suggested Policies

Policy 6.1

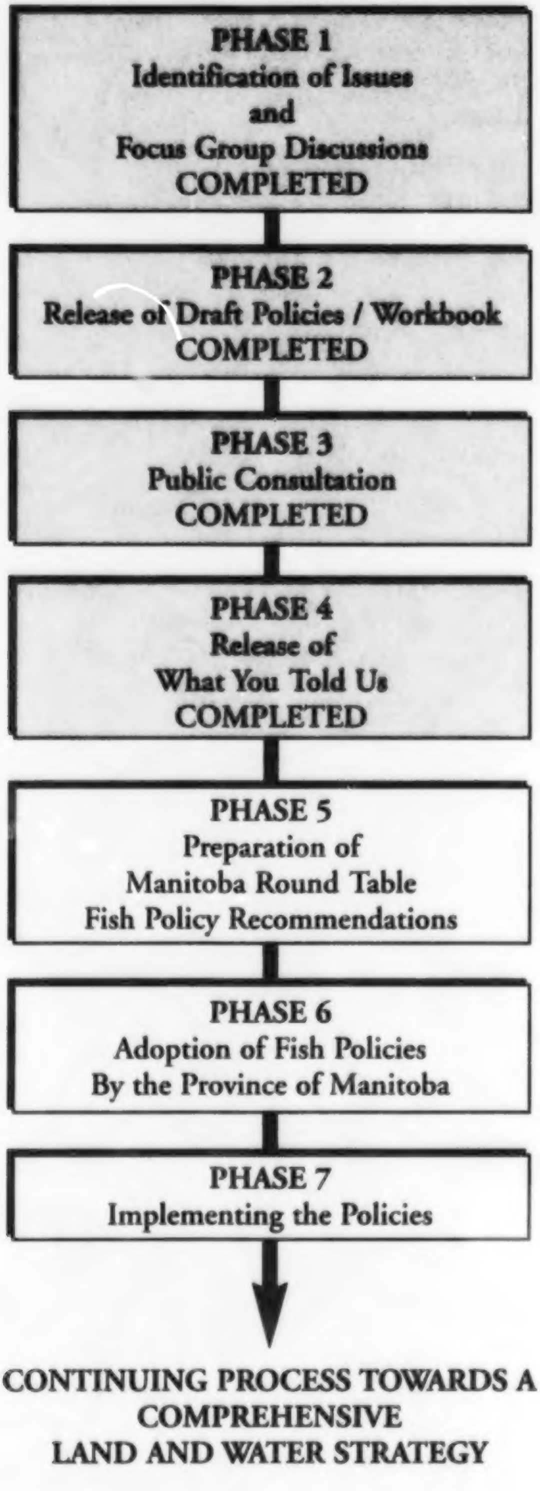
We believe that no monitoring of mercury levels in fish has been done for a number of years. There should be an ongoing program with dissemination of the results, particularly in communities that consume large quantities of fish.

Policy 6.2

Agreed, but it should also include legislation forbidding the emptying of ballast or other waters from one water body into another. Certainly education is required describing why this is not an acceptable practice.

Policy 6.3

This is the first mention of winter ice fishing in the Workbook. What studies have been done to identify the ecological impacts of winter ice fishing? Are licences required? What are the limits? What monitoring occurs? How often are there oil spills from heaters in the sheds? What are the impacts of the sheds that float downstream in spring? If people fly in to remote lakes, what is to prevent overfishing?


PHASE 1 Identification of Issues and Focus Group Discussions COMPLETED
PHASE 2 Release of Draft Policies / Workbook COMPLETED
PHASE 3 Public Consultation COMPLETED
PHASE 4 Release of What You Told Us COMPLETED
PHASE 5 Preparation of Manitoba Round Table Fish Policy Recommendations
PHASE 6 Adoption of Fish Policies By the Province of Manitoba
PHASE 7 Implementing the Policies
CONTINUING PROCESS TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE LAND AND WATER STRATEGY